Superstitions

1- Read the article about the origin of two superstitions and write True or False. Justify the false answers.

"A broken mirror gives you seven years of bad luck."

In ancient Greece, it was common for people to consult "mirror **seers**," who told their fortunes by analyzing their reflections. Divination was performed with the help of water and a looking glass (mirror). This was called catoptromancy. The mirror was put into the water and a sick person was asked to look into the glass. If his image appeared distorted, he would to die **soon**; if it was clear, he would live."

In the first century A.D., the Romans added a **twist** to the superstition. At that time, it was believed that. A distorted image resulting from a broken mirror meant seven years of ill health and misfortune, rather than death.

"A black cat crossing your path is lucky/unlucky."

Many cultures agree that black cats are powerful omens but do they signify good or evil?

The ancient Egyptians loved all cats, and it was there that the belief began that a black cat crossing your **path** brings good luck. This positive reputation was different in Europe in the early seventeenth century in England. King Charles I had a black cat as a pet. When the cat died, King Charles lamented that his luck was gone. The day after the cat's death he was arrested and charged with high treason.

During the Middle Ages, in many other parts of Europe people thought black cats were the "familiars," or companions, of witches, or even witches themselves in disguise, and that a black cat crossing your path was an indication of bad luck, a sign that the devil was watching you. This was a strong belief held by the Pilgrims when they came to America, perhaps explaining the strong association between black cats and **witchcraft** that exists in the country to this day.

1. ___ The Ancient Greeks used water or a mirror to see their future.
2. ___ For the Romans, a sick person would die if his image was distorted.
3. ___ For different cultures blacks cats are always evil.
4. ___ For King Charles I his black cat was good luck.
5. ___ For some people in the Middle ages, a clack cat was a witch

2- What do these words from the text mean? Match the words and its definition.

1- Seers	___ a- way, road.
2- Soon	___ b- someone who can tell your fortune
3- Twist	___ c- the practice of magic
4- Path	___ d- in a short time
5- witchcraft	___ c- a change, a different meaning

3- Write the superstitions related to these words: LADDER, SHOOTING STAR.

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4- Complete the sentences with the first conditional.

1- If it ..... (rain) tomorrow, we ..... (not go) to school .

2- My parents ..... (be) very angry if my sister .....(not pass) her exams.

3- ..... you.....(pay) if I ..... (go) to the cinema with you?

4- If I ..... (not arrive) late to school, they ..... (let) me in.

5- We ..... (not have) English classes if our teacher ..... (be) ill.