

## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE 1

Read

# Superstitions



**S**uperstitions have been part of human life since time began. They are passed down from generation to generation and most of them are culturally bound.

We can take them as a funny part of our folklore or we can take them seriously. Our freedom will depend on our choice.

In South America, if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck. On the other hand, in Egypt, cats are welcomed because they bring good luck to homes.

If you wear yellow underwear in Colombia on New Year's Eve, you will have a lucky year. In Argentina, the colour changes to pink.

Four is an unlucky number in Japan, Korea and Hawaii, while for western cultures

number 13 is the reject. To add to this mix, some countries consider Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to be a black day, while in Greece people choose Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>.



Different professions have developed their own superstitions. Doctors say that if they exchange their night duties, they will have a tough night. Firefighters believe that if they clean their boots while on duty, a fire call will follow soon. If a teacher arrives late to his or her first lesson, he or she will not be able to make a good career at school.

Sailors consider that women on board bring bad luck. And they will never point their finger at the sky before departure, because it may cause a storm.

Charms, talismans or even a piece of clothing can give us confidence when facing a stressful situation.

Why not use superstitions in our favour to calm our anxiety? But beware of becoming a slave to the superstition!



### 1 Choose True or False

1. Believing in superstitions is a new trend.
2. Superstitions are the same everywhere.
3. The number 4 is an unlucky number.
4. Teacher's don't believe in superstitions.
5. Superstitions can be positive.

**2 Complete with the given words.**

FOUR-LEAF CLOVER     IF     HORSESHOES     COUNTRIES     LUCKY ELEPHANT  
BELIEVE     RABBIT'S FOOT     LUCK

**A** Some people believe that ..... they carry a ..... in their pocket, it will protect them and bring them good luck.

**B** In the past, country people believed that a ..... will bring them good luck. Nowadays, people ..... this too.

**C** In many ..... people believe in the ..... . This originated in Thailand and India.

**D** The ..... are used on the doors of houses. If it they are used with the ends pointing up, they will bring good .....

**3 Complete with the verbs in the correct form.**

**1** In Argentina, If you ..... pink underwear in New Year's Eve, you ..... a lucky year. (wear- have)

**2** In Egypt, if a black cat ..... your path, you ..... good luck. (cross- have)

**3** For sailors, if women ..... on board, they ..... bad luck. (be- bring)

**4** They also believe that if they ..... their finger at the sky before departure, they ..... a storm. (point- cause)

**5** Some people believe that if they ..... a talisman, they ..... stressful situations better. (have- face)