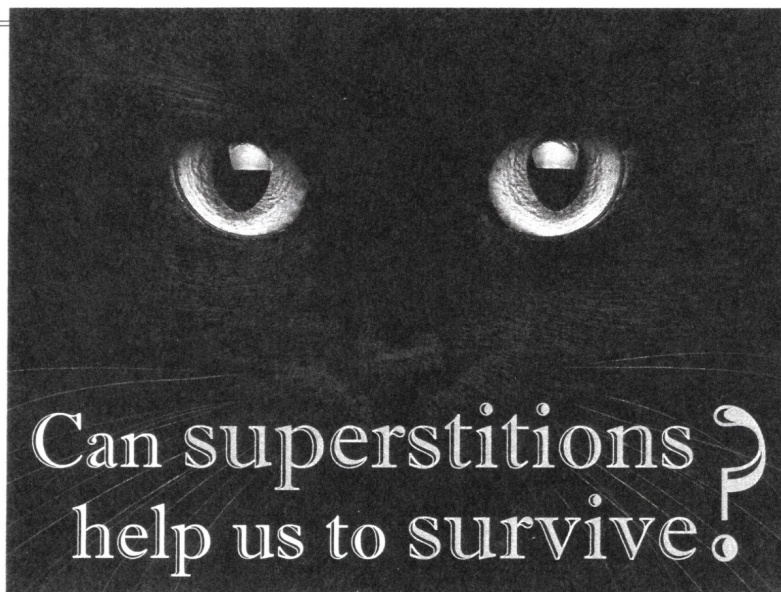


# Reading

1 Read the article about superstitions. How many of the tasks below can you do?



How superstitious are you? If you see a ladder, will you walk around it? If you see a black cat, will you cross the road? If you have an important event coming up, will you do something to bring you good luck? Being superstitious is very common. Barack Obama played basketball the morning after he won his first election. He then played basketball every time he won an election, right up to the White House.

Scientists Dr Kevin Foster and Dr Hanna Kokko think that being superstitious is very normal for humans. Foster says, "in a world of uncertainties\*, you have to choose whether to believe or not

to believe." You can choose to believe that one thing has caused something else even if you can't prove it. Sometimes, this can give us a better chance of survival.

For example, the first people on Earth might have linked the sound of grass moving with the idea that a dangerous animal was coming. Most of the time, it was just the wind making the sound but sometimes it was a wild animal. "If a group of lions is coming there's a huge benefit to not being around," says Foster. It's better to be safe than sorry. The scientists showed that if believing in a superstition is less dangerous than missing a dangerous situation (such as the lion), then these superstitions are passed down from generation to generation.

We humans are different from animals because we also get a lot of superstitions from culture and modern life. These are less likely to be linked to survival. However, maybe it is safer not to walk under a ladder! I'm starting to think that maybe superstitions are useful. I know what I'll do next time I see a ladder in the street in front of me!

**VOCABULARY:** \*uncertainties – Ungewissheiten

Circle T (True) or F (False).

- 1 Not many people are really superstitious. T / F
- 2 Barack Obama did the same thing every time he won an election. T / F
- 3 Scientists Dr Foster and Dr Kokko have studied how superstitions can be useful. T / F

Choose the correct answer.

- 4 Believing that one thing can cause something else
  - isn't helpful.                       can sometimes help to survive.
  - can be dangerous.
- 5 The scientists give the example of
  - people who were scared of the sound of moving grass.                       people who were scared of lions.
  - lions who were scared of the sound of moving grass.

- 6 The scientists showed that a superstition is carried on
- when believing in it is less dangerous than what might happen.
  - when people don't believe in it.
  - when the thing that might happen isn't very dangerous.

Answer the questions.

- 7 How are humans different from animals when it comes to superstitions?

.....

- 8 Why does the writer think that cultural superstitions can also help us to survive?

.....

- 9 What do you think the writer will do next time he sees a ladder?

.....

## Listening

- 2 Listen to Mr Williams talking about his childhood hobby. How many of these tasks can you do?

Circle T (True) or F (False).

- 1 As a boy Mr Williams spent most of his free time inside his house. T / F
- 2 He always looked forward to each new season. T / F
- 3 He thinks most kids today wouldn't share his hobby. T / F

Complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words.

- 4 You could see magpies in every ..... year.
- 5 A magpie has ..... and is black and white.
- 6 Some people think it ..... precious stones and jewellery.

Answer the questions.

- 7 What happens if you see two magpies together? .....
- 8 What size groups did Mr Williams usually see when he was a child?  
.....
- 9 Why is the poem not so popular these days? .....

## Writing

3

Make up your own superstitions. Write down 10.  
Remember the correct form: If ... will ...  
The funnier, the better! ☺

# Vocabulary

## 4 Complete the dialogue with the words from the box.

magpie  
cracks  
afraid of  
cuckoos  
bad luck  
ladders  
superstitious  
pavement

**Blair** Are you <sup>1</sup>..... ?

**Alex** Not really ... well, I don't walk  
under <sup>2</sup>.....

**Blair** Anything else?

**Alex** Yes ... I say hello to every  
<sup>3</sup>..... that I see.

**Blair** What, those black and white birds?

**Alex** Yes.

**Blair** Only those birds? Why not  
<sup>4</sup>....., or any  
other bird?

**Alex** I don't really know – I guess I'm  
just <sup>5</sup>..... them.

**Blair** Why?

**Alex** I just don't want any  
<sup>6</sup>.....

**Blair** Hey, be careful!

**Alex** What now?

**Blair** You're walking on the  
<sup>7</sup>..... between  
the stones on the  
<sup>8</sup>..... – if you  
do that you'll have ...

**Alex** Wait, don't tell me ... I'll have bad  
luck!

## 5 Complete the text with the words and phrases in the box.

joking  
beside  
campfire  
evil spirits  
afraid of  
superstitious  
catch a cold  
nonsense  
do the dishes  
turn around

### Sleeping under the stars

I love going camping. My mum and dad took us  
when we were young and it was so much fun. I  
still go with my friends every summer and we  
always go to the same place. It's a little campsite  
in the countryside <sup>1</sup>..... a

river and we spend the days swimming, canoeing, relaxing and sunbathing.

The evenings are the best though. We cook some food on the barbecue and then sit  
around the <sup>2</sup>..... telling crazy stories about ghosts and

<sup>3</sup>..... . Of course, none of us are really <sup>4</sup>..... but by  
the end of the night, we're all <sup>5</sup>..... the dark! None of the stories are  
true; they're all <sup>6</sup>..... but every time we hear a noise behind us in the  
trees we <sup>7</sup>..... suddenly because we think some animal or monster is  
going to get us!

Camping is great. You have to cook and <sup>8</sup>..... afterwards, but it's  
cheaper and much more fun than a hotel. You can sometimes

<sup>9</sup>..... or get a few insect bites but there's nothing better than sitting  
by the campfire with friends, laughing and <sup>10</sup>..... and lying down  
happy and warm in a sleeping bag at the end of a wonderful day.



# Grammar

## 6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If you ..... (catch) a leaf on the first day of autumn\*, you ..... (not catch) a cold all winter.
- 2 You ..... (not have) good luck if you ..... (go) into a house through one door and leave through another.
- 3 If you ..... (dream) that you are running, you ..... (have) some big changes in your life.
- 4 Good things ..... (happen) if you ..... (see) a black cat walking towards you.
- 5 You ..... (have) good luck if you ..... (cut) your hair when the moon is getting bigger.
- 6 If you ..... (say) "White rabbit" on the first day of the month, it ..... (be) a good month for you.
- 7 If a bird dropping ..... (land) on your head, good luck ..... (come) to you!
- 8 If you ..... (throw) a coin into a fountain, it ..... (make) your dreams come true.

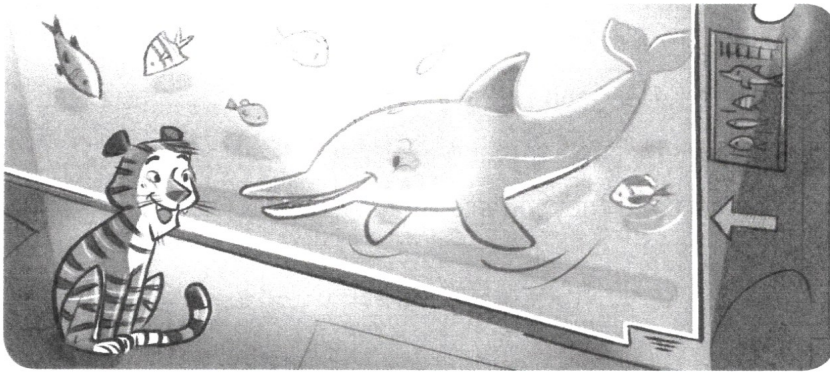
**VOCABULARY:** \*autumn – Herbst

## 7 Rewrite the sentences using *unless*.

- 1 If you don't try it, you won't know what it tastes like.  
.....
- 2 You won't play on your X-Box if you don't do your homework first.  
.....
- 3 If you don't try hard, you won't succeed.  
.....
- 4 You won't make it to school on time if you don't go now.  
.....
- 5 If you don't fill your car up with petrol, it won't go!  
.....
- 6 You won't be allowed on the plane if you haven't got a ticket.  
.....
- 7 If you don't put your T-shirt on, you'll get sunburn.  
.....
- 8 You'll put weight on if you don't exercise more often.  
.....

## Reading

1 Read this article about two unusual friends. Then choose the correct answers.



### TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Do you believe that animals can have friends? If you have a pet you'll know that the answer is yes!

I've had my dog for four years now (my neighbours gave him to me when they moved house), and last January I bought a parrot. And I think I can say that they're now very good friends. My parrot even rides around on the dog's back!

This is the story of a very unusual friendship that began at an animal park near San Francisco in the USA.

Shilpa is a tiger. She's only six months old, and she was born at the park. Everything there is

still very new to her. One day, not long ago, her human friends were taking her around the park when they went past a special swimming pool. It's a very large swimming pool with glass walls around it, and it's the place where the dolphins live and play. Well, they were walking past when Shilpa saw a strange animal with a long nose on the other side of the glass. Shilpa was excited, so her human friends decided to introduce her to the young animal in the pool.

The animal's name is Maverick, and he's a dolphin. He's only 14 months old, and he's spent all his life at the park. Maverick saw the young tiger and came up to the side of the tank to look at Shilpa. Shilpa sat there for a long time. Maverick put his nose against the side of the pool, and began to make lots of bubbles\*. He was probably saying hello in dolphin language! They got on really well, and now Shilpa visits Maverick at the same time every day. When she gets to the pool, Maverick is already waiting for her! In fact, Maverick sulks\* if she's late ...

The cats we keep at home don't like water very much, but tigers are different. They like water, and can swim very well. Perhaps one day they will let Shilpa swim with Maverick!

#### VOCABULARY

\*bubbles – Blasen;

sulk – schmollen, beleidigt sein

1 The writer

- believes that animals can be friends.
- thinks animals don't have friends.
- says he has many friends.
- has only one pet.

2 The writer

- has had a dog since January.
- bought a parrot four years ago.
- has had a dog since his neighbours arrived.
- has had a dog since his neighbours moved away.

3 Shilpa

- has been at the park a long time.
- knows all the other animals.
- has been at the park since she was born.
- wasn't born at the park.

4 Shilpa

- escaped from her home.
- tried to go swimming.
- has a long nose.
- saw Maverick behind a glass wall.

5 Maverick

- was born at the park 14 months ago.
- is two years old.
- came to the park from another place.
- is not young any more.

7 Shilpa and Maverick

- meet at the same time every day.
- meet once every few weeks.
- have only met once.
- might meet each other again one day.

6 When Shilpa first saw Maverick, she

- didn't notice him.
- was excited.
- was afraid of him.
- tried to talk to him.

8 The two animals

- played together when they met.
- might swim together one day.
- are both tiger babies.
- swam together.

# Listening

2 Listen to Janet talking about her social media account. Then answer the questions.

- 1 How long has Janet had her Facebook account? .....
- 2 Why does she want to get rid of it? .....
- 3 How many friends does she have on it? .....
- 4 What is her dilemma? .....
- 5 Why can't she just post her contact details on Facebook?  
.....
- 6 How many of her friends are from her school? .....
- 7 What is the problem with the other 28 friends? .....
- 8 What's Janet's conclusion about the 'modern world'?  
.....

# Writing

3 An English teen magazine is asking its readers to write about their best friends. Write an email of 150-180 words to the team of the magazine with your ideas. In your email:

- give a few facts about your friend
- say since when you have been friends
- mention why you are such good friends
- say what you like / don't like about your friend

# Vocabulary

## 4 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| fall out with | had an argument        |
| broke up with | mind your own business |
| make up with  | stormed out of         |
| had a fight   | gets on well with      |



- 1 Stop asking me personal questions. I wish you would just .....
- 2 Kate and Sarah fight like cat and dog. They always have arguments and ..... each other.
- 3 The children ..... about what game to play.
- 4 John and Amy aren't together any more. They ..... each other last week.
- 5 Tom ..... at school. A boy hit him and now he's got a black eye.
- 6 He was really angry. He ..... the house and slammed the door.
- 7 Adam is really popular. He ..... everyone.
- 8 We often argue but we always say sorry and ..... each other afterwards.

## 5 Match the words and phrases with their meanings.

- |                            |                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 fall out with            | <input type="checkbox"/> to end a romantic relationship with someone             |
| 2 break up with            | <input type="checkbox"/> to have a good relationship and be friends with someone |
| 3 make up with             | <input type="checkbox"/> to leave a place suddenly in an angry way               |
| 4 get on with              | <input type="checkbox"/> to argue with someone and stop being friendly with them |
| 5 make fun of              | <input type="checkbox"/> to make a joke about someone that is not kind           |
| 6 storm out                | <input type="checkbox"/> to forgive someone and be friendly with them again      |
| 7 give someone a hard time | <input type="checkbox"/> to tell the truth to someone                            |
| 8 be honest with           | <input type="checkbox"/> to make things difficult or unpleasant for someone      |

# Grammar

## 6 Complete the letter with *for* or *since*.

*for (Zeitdauer) ~~~~~*  
*since (Zeitpunkt) —●—*

Hi Leonie,

How are you? I hope you are well. I've been here in New York <sup>1</sup>..... about three months now and I've had a really great time <sup>2</sup>..... I arrived. It's quite cold here at the moment but I'm really enjoying it.

I've made a lot of new friends and my English has improved a lot too! I love the university and my teachers are great. I'm really tired though! I am studying for my exams at the moment and I haven't slept much <sup>3</sup>..... last week. I've read about a million books <sup>4</sup>..... I've been here!

My best friend here is a girl called Anna. I've known her <sup>5</sup>..... about three months. She's from the Czech Republic and she's a student too. She's lived here <sup>6</sup>..... about 2 years and she lives quite close to my apartment.

I love New York. It is such a cool place and there are so many restaurants here. I haven't cooked any food <sup>7</sup>..... weeks because it's just easier to go out to eat instead! When are you going to visit me? I haven't seen you <sup>8</sup>..... ages! Anyway, I'd better go to my class. Write soon and stay in touch!

Love,

Emma

*have / has + 3<sup>rd</sup> form*  
 ↑

## 7 Write sentences with the present perfect and for or since.

- 1 Josie and I / best friends / five years. Josie and I have been best friends for five years.
- 2 I / not see Paul / three days. ....
- 3 I / know / Gillian / the beginning of the year.  
 .....
- 4 Emma / has / that fantastic bike / her birthday.  
 .....
- 5 Julie / not sit / next to me / our big argument.  
 .....
- 6 Kirk / not read / good book / months. ....
- 7 Polly / study French / two years. ....
- 8 Jamie / not call me / last week. ....





## Grammar

### 6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> CONDITIONAL

Past tense!

- If I went out ..... (go out) with a nerd, my friends would laugh at me.
- If my sister ..... (have) mean friends, I would be worried about her.
- If my parents grounded me, I ..... (be) really angry with them.
- If he ..... (pick on) you, he wouldn't be my friend any more.
- If she ..... (not wear) cool clothes, she would look like an outsider.
- If he was cheeky in class, the teacher ..... (give) him detention.
- If I ..... (know) the answers, I would tell you.
- If he was late, he ..... (fail) his exam.

### 7 Match the sentence halves.

- |                                    |                                                       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 If it wasn't so expensive        | <input type="checkbox"/> he would get a good grade.   |
| 2 I would visit you more often     | <input type="checkbox"/> if you drank less coffee.    |
| 3 If he studied more               | <input type="checkbox"/> if you lived closer.         |
| 4 You would sleep better           | <input type="checkbox"/> the food would taste better. |
| 5 I wouldn't touch that dog        | <input type="checkbox"/> you would arrive on time.    |
| 6 If you added more chilli peppers | <input type="checkbox"/> if you were more careful.    |
| 7 If you left the house earlier    | <input type="checkbox"/> I would buy it.              |
| 8 You wouldn't break everything    | <input type="checkbox"/> if I were you.               |

### 8 Circle the correct option. <sup>1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup></sup> CONDITIONAL

- They will / would buy a new house if they had enough money.
- If the weather is good, we will / would go to the beach tomorrow.
- If I went to Egypt, I will / would visit the Valley of the Kings.
- Even if she invited me to the party, I won't / wouldn't go.
- If I lost my phone, I will / would buy a new one.
- I will / would go on the rollercoaster if you come with me.
- If we don't take a taxi, we won't / wouldn't get there on time.
- If you search online, you will / would be able to book a flight and hotel.



- 6 The scientists showed that a superstition is carried on
- when believing in it is less dangerous than what might happen.
  - when people don't believe in it.
  - when the thing that might happen isn't very dangerous.

**Answer the questions.**

- 7 How are humans different from animals when it comes to superstitions?  
.....
- 8 Why does the writer think that cultural superstitions can also help us to survive?  
.....
- 9 What do you think the writer will do next time he sees a ladder?  
.....

## Listening



- 2** Listen to Mr Williams talking about his childhood hobby. How many of these tasks can you do?

Circle T (*True*) or F (*False*).

- 1 As a boy Mr Williams spent most of his free time inside his house. T / F
- 2 He always looked forward to each new season. T / F
- 3 He thinks most kids today wouldn't share his hobby. T / F

**Complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words.**

- 4 You could see magpies in every ..... year.
- 5 A magpie has ..... and is black and white.
- 6 Some people think it ..... precious stones and jewellery.

**Answer the questions.**

- 7 What happens if you see two magpies together? .....
- 8 What size groups did Mr Williams usually see when he was a child?  
.....
- 9 Why is the poem not so popular these days? .....

## Writing

**3**

Make up your own superstitions. Write down 10.  
Remember the correct form: If ... will ...  
The funnier, the better! ☺

