

**LÍNGUA INGLESA – QUESTÕES DE 66 A 70****Superstitions**

1        *Since I am not a superstitious person myself, I'm always amused*  
2 *when other people behave superstitiously. In fact, when I was young and*  
3 *wanted to drive my mother crazy, I would open an umbrella in the house.*  
4 *As a child, I could never understand why her reaction was so extreme. To*  
5 *tell you the truth, I still haven't been able to figure out why opening a broom*  
6 *indoors is supposed to bring bad luck.*

7        *Some superstitions can be traced back to ancient religions. Take the*  
8 *number 13, for example. Some people are so superstitious about it that*  
9 *they will avoid having thirteen people at a table at all costs. In America,*  
10 *some well-known hotels have no rooms or floors numbered 13. Scholars*  
11 *say this superstition came from Scandinavia. According to a Norse myth,*  
12 *twelve gods and goddesses were having a feast when the evil god Loki*  
13 *joined them uninvited. This caused an argument, which resulted in the*  
14 *death of Balder, the most beloved of all the Norse gods.*

15       *However, this explanation sounds illogical to me. I find it hard to*  
16 *believe that people are still so strongly affected by something which never*  
17 *really happened.*

18       *A more recent superstition is the belief that lighting three cigarettes in a*  
19 *row with one match is unlucky. This strange belief has its roots in the Boer*  
20 *War, which took place in South Africa between the British and the*  
21 *Afrikaners at the end of the nineteenth century. The Afrikaners could kill*  
22 *three soldiers who had just lit their cigarettes with the same match. At*  
23 *least the explanation to this superstition sounds more realistic than an old*  
24 *fairy tale.*

25       *However, not all superstitions have to do with bad luck. Horseshoes,*  
26 *for example, are thought to be lucky. These objects are probably*  
27 *associated with good luck because in ancient times making iron into*  
28 *something useful was regarded as magic. Another explanation might be*  
29 *that the horse was a sacred animal for the Celtic people of Europe. Even*  
30 *Admiral Nelson nailed a horseshoe to the mast of his ship to bring good*  
31 *weather and calm seas on his journeys.*

32       *Whatever the explanations for superstitions are, none of them sound*  
33 *totally convincing to me. But then again, that is exactly the reason why*  
34 *these beliefs are considered superstitions and not science.*

(Source: MITCHELL, H. Q.; SCOTT, J. **Channel your English**. Intermediate. Students' book. London: MMPublications, 2002.)

66. According to the text, it is CORRECT to say that the author:

- a) used to believe in superstitions when he was young.
- b) was able to understand his mother's reactions to some superstitions.
- c) is totally convinced that superstitions can affect human behavior.
- d) doesn't believe in superstitions, although he finds it interesting.
- e) believes that superstitions have plausible and scientific explanations.

67. According to the text, it is CORRECT to say that:

- a) thirteen people at a table bring luck at all costs.
- b) all hotels in America have only thirteen floors.
- c) the origin of some superstitions is related to ancient religions.
- d) horseshoes are thought to bring bad luck because they are magic.
- e) it's lucky to light three cigarettes sequentially with the same match.

68. All of the following words are adverbs in the text, EXCEPT:

- a) "*strongly*" (line 16).
- b) "*broolly*" (line 5).
- c) "*superstitiously*" (line 2).
- d) "*totally*" (line 33).
- e) "*exactly*" (line 33).

69. Choose the verb which is REGULAR:

- a) "*drive*" (line 3).
- b) "*understand*" (line 4).
- c) "*bring*" (line 30).
- d) "*tell*" (line 5).
- e) "*behave*" (line 2).

70. Match the pronouns in column 1 to their referents in column 2:

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. " <i>which</i> " (line 16) | ( ) " <i>three soldiers</i> " |
| 2. " <i>her</i> " (line 4)    | ( ) " <i>something</i> "      |
| 3. " <i>its</i> " (line 19)   | ( ) " <i>number 13</i> "      |
| 4. " <i>their</i> " (line 22) | ( ) " <i>strange belief</i> " |
| 5. " <i>it</i> " (line 8)     | ( ) " <i>my mother</i> "      |

The CORRECT sequence is:

- a) 4, 1, 5, 2, 3.
- b) 5, 4, 1, 3, 2.
- c) 5, 4, 1, 2, 3.
- d) 5, 1, 4, 3, 2.
- e) 4, 1, 5, 3, 2.