

B2.3 UNIT 10

EXERCISE 1 Choose the right idiom for each sentence conjugating the verb in the correct form.

1. Andy will never change his bad habits. His mother knows she.....	a. Come to nothing
2. I studied for 3 months but the day of the exam I got sick, so everything I had done.....	b. Work wonders
3. John's always been very talented and hardworking. I'm pretty sure that someday he.....	c. Get off on the wrong foot
4. Rob when he started his new project, because he lost all the materials he had just bought, but now things are going quite well.	d. Draw a blank
5. You may disagree, but I think that having a beer can.....before an oral exam: it just makes you feel more relaxed and speak better!	e. Fight a losing battle
6. Mike is so mean to everyone today! He must have.....	f. Make it big
7. This time nobody will help her: she must, it's her very last chance to make it!	g. Sink or swim
8. Jane is a very anxious person: every time she's asked something in public.....	h. Get up on the wrong side of the bed

EXERCISE 2 Change the original sentence into one with inversion.

1. We had only just sat down when the waiter asked to take our order.
- 1.
2. María had never been to such a great concert!
- 2.
3. Jim will apologize only when there is no turning back, as always.
- 3.
4. Glenn seldom goes dancing in a disco: he normally prefers pubs.
- 4.

5. Sue understood little about what her boss had said.

5.

6. I have never seen so tall many people before.

6.

EXERCISE 3 Choose a word from the box to fill in the gaps.

dismay	taken aback	backlash	reply	outrage	amazement	overreacting
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1- She felt a strong sense of _____ at their indifference.

2- They looked at him in _____ when they found out the truth.

3- To his _____, she turned down the offer.

4- There are fears of a _____ against the unfair new regulations.

5- I think you are _____. It's not the end of the world!

6- He was _____ when she gave him the news.

7- I look forward to receiving your prompt _____.

EXERCISE 4 Read the text and provide a word that fits each space.

Do you (1) _____ nervous when a black cat walks in front of you? Do you avoid walking under ladders? If you (2) _____ a mirror would you expect to get 7 years' bad luck?

If the answer is 'yes' to (3) _____ of these questions then you are clearly a superstitious person. Superstitions can be defined (4) _____ "irrational beliefs, especially with regard to the unknown" They cause us to act in strange ways, believe in odd things and leave us unable to explain the reasons why.

Many superstitions (5) _____ seem silly, even stupid to us today, but they continue to influence our behaviour and many people would argue that there are in fact some very good reasons (6) _____ avoiding black cats and walking around ladders.

Common Superstitions Explained

In most cases, the reasons behind common superstitions can be traced (7) _____ to medieval or even ancient times. They are (8) _____ often even more peculiar than the beliefs they attempt to explain.

Black cats are the source of literally hundreds of unlucky superstitions. It's a sign (9) _____ bad luck if they walk in front of you. It's unlucky to step (10) _____ their tails. They even bring bad luck into a house if they sneeze

inside! This unfortunate connection with misfortune dates back to the Middle Ages when they became associated with witches and (11)_____ thought to harbour evil spirits.

There are very practical reasons for thinking (12)_____ before walking under a ladder, but a more mysterious explanation can be traced back to ancient Egypt. The early Egyptians believed that the shape of the Pyramids had a special power. It was considered very bad luck to break the 'power' of this shape and that's exactly (13)_____ walking under a ladder would do!

In Roman times people had the habit of looking at their reflections (14)_____ pools of water. Some believed that these reflections were in fact 'glimpses of the soul'. Any disruption to the water, (15)_____ as a stone being thrown into the pool, would bring bad luck to the person looking in. This superstition lives on with the fear of bad luck from breaking a mirror.

Here are a some other curious beliefs from around the world.

If you don't cover your bald head it will start raining. – Afghanistan

If you shave your head on a Saturday, you will be in perpetual debt. – Africa

You'll 'cut off' fortune if you use scissors on New Year's Day. – China

You shouldn't wash your hair the day before an exam. – Russia