

4 SUPERSTITIONS AND BELIEFS

LESSON A • Superstitions

1 Vocabulary

1. e 2. f 3. d 4. c 5. a 6. g 7. b

2 Grammar

When someone asserts that you can see ...

... they'll sometimes admit that they can't find ...

And if people argue that you can badly hurt ...

Others have claimed that it's true ...

However, experts agree that there's really no need ...

... and they report that a dropped coin could not reach ...

Do you ever doubt that we, as humans, have ...

... some scientists explain that many other senses are ...

3 Grammar

1. As a child, I believed (that) a monster was living under my bed.
2. To keep the monster away, I felt (that) I had to adjust the covers over me.
3. I assumed (that) my teddy bear would help me.
4. I doubted (that) my parents would believe me.

4 Grammar

Possible answers

1. Anna would explain that Friday the 13th is just like any other day.
2. Luke would admit that he keeps a lucky charm with him during important games.
3. Farah would argue that it's hard to prove whether the superstitions are true or not, but perhaps some are true.

5 Writing

- A 1. c 2. b 3. f 4. d

B Answers will vary.

LESSON B • Believe it or not

1 Grammar

It was said that the Martians were attacking ...

... it was announced that the Martians were dying.

... it is generally claimed that many people believed it ...

... and it was reported that there was widespread panic ...

It has been suggested that Welles's broadcast offers ...

2 Vocabulary

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. misleading | 5. believable |
| 2. convincing | 6. conceivable |
| 3. well-founded | 7. dubious |
| 4. iffy | 8. credible |

3 Grammar

1. It is estimated (that) more than two billion people use the Internet.
2. It is reported (that) fingernails grow faster on the hand that you use the most.
3. It is said (that) the oldest living tree on earth is nearly 5,000 years old.
4. It is believed (that) in a baby's first year of life, parents lose between 400 and 750 hours of sleep.
5. It is explained that items like plastic cups and bags take between 500 and 1,000 years to break down.
6. It is claimed (that) about 100 hairs fall from a person's head each day.

4 Grammar

1. It is said (that) 15 minutes of exercise per day may extend your life by three years.
2. It is reported (that) the average American child watches 20,000 commercials each year.
3. It is suggested that traditional treatments such as acupuncture are effective.
4. It is claimed (that) a cure for certain types of cancer will be found soon.
5. It is believed (that) some animals can predict earthquakes.

5 Reading

- A
1. in 1995
 2. millions of people
 3. Verifying and debunking rumors, ridiculous claims, and email chain letters.
- B
1. NG 2. NG 3. F 4. T 5. NG