

SPEAKING

Let's talk about cultural beliefs!

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1124S

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can discuss cultural beliefs in detail.
- I can talk about my own culture in more depth.



Warm-up

**Do you believe
in...?**

**Form 3 questions using this
structure. Then, share your
ideas with your group.**





Discuss

**Choose one question
from the last slide.**



**Ask a classmate to find
out about their beliefs.**



Guess the superstition

Discuss the beliefs associated with each.



You'll find the answers on the next slides!

Handbags in
Brazil

Wedding
bouquets in
the US

Hmm, I think I've heard of that before...

Number 4 in
China

Fingernails in
Japan

Hang on! Isn't it something to do with...?

Water in
Germany

Eggs in
Uganda

No, I don't think so. I'm pretty sure it's related to...



Reading

Read through the answers. Did anyone guess correctly?

Superstitions from around the world



Handbags in Brazil

If you pay close attention you'll notice that most Brazilians hang their handbags on a chair, put it on their lap or the table. It's believed that putting a handbag on the floor means you'll lose money!



Bouquets in the US

This well-known superstition dictates that the unmarried woman who catches the bouquet at a wedding will be the next one to get married. It can also be a garter, not just the bouquet!



Number 4 in China

The number 4 is considered unlucky in China because it sounds similar to the word for 'death'. For this reason, Chinese buildings often lack a fourth floor and drivers avoid number plates ending in four.

Superstitions from around the world



Fingernails in Japan

In Japan, cutting fingernails at night is thought to bring bad luck. The same applies to your toenails! If you cut either at night, it's thought that you won't be able to be with your parents when they're on their deathbed.



Water in Germany

Never say '*Prost*', meaning cheers in German, with water in Germany. To do so is believed to wish death on all of your drinking buddies. Stick to toasting with a glass of beer, schnapps or a soft drink instead!



Eggs in Uganda

In Uganda, when a person is discharged from hospital, they are to first step on an egg before stepping foot in the house. Doing this after illness is said to help get rid of the illness for good and ensure it never returns!



Expressing similarity



In Brazil, putting a handbag on the floor means you'll lose money!

Same here! In Spain, we never put purses or bags on the floor either.

This phrase is a more **informal** way of saying *so do we* or *we also do that*.



Interview a classmate

1. **Work** in pairs either in breakout rooms or together as a class.
2. For breakout rooms: can you find one superstition in common between you?

1



Does your country have any similar superstitions to the ones in the text?

2



What is considered to bring bad luck where you are from?

3



Would you say you're a superstitious person or not?



Discuss

When people from other countries think about your culture, what do they usually think of?



What do you think is interesting about your own culture?



Choose two cards

Ask one of your classmates to find out more about them. Then, **swap** roles.



If you could change one thing about your culture, what would it be?

What is changing in your culture?

What cultures would you like to learn more about?

Have you ever experienced culture shock before?



End of the lesson

Idiom

take something with a pinch of salt

Meaning: to be careful about believing that something is completely true

Example: I'd **take that with a pinch of salt**; it's just a superstition!



Additional practice



Discuss

**What are some
must sees in
your country?**

**What experiences should every
visitor to your country have?**





Read the quotation

“

**When in Rome,
do as the Romans do!**

What does this
expression refer to?

Do you think it's
good advice or not?

Why?

What advice would
you give a visitor to
your country?





Turn the tables!



**Ask your teacher where
they are from.**

**What do you and your classmates know about
their home country?**



Summary

Discussing cultural beliefs

- *superstition; it's believed that...; to dictate; garter; considered; to lack*
- *It's thought that... ; to do so is believed to...; ... is said to...*
- *In Uganda, stepping on an egg after illness **is said to** help get rid of the illness for good.*



Vocabulary

superstition

It's believed that...

to dictate

garter

to consider

to lack

It's thought that...

To do so is believed to...

... is said to...

