

UNIT 57

Belief and superstition

A Match the words or phrases to make common expressions connected with belief or superstition.

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 dabble | A account |
| 2 mind | B pokery |
| 3 extra-sensory | C telling |
| 4 sleight | D in the occult |
| 5 jiggery- | E magic |
| 6 far- | F perception |
| 7 burden | G of proof |
| 8 unidentified | H illusion |
| 9 fortune | I of hand |
| 10 black | J over matter |
| 11 optical | K fetched |
| 12 eyewitness | L flying object |

B Decide whether the definitions are true (T) or false (F). Give the correct definition if necessary.

- 1 A *premonition* is an intuition of a future happy event.
- 2 A *charlatan* is someone who pretends to have knowledge he or she does not possess, especially in medicine.
- 3 To *levitate* means rising or causing to rise and float in the air.
- 4 A *seance* is a meeting where spiritualists try to receive messages from the spirits of the dead.
- 5 *Astrology* is the study of the planets and stars.
- 6 A *poltergeist* is a spirit which makes noises and moves objects.
- 7 *Telepathy* means being able to understand, and communicate with, people's thoughts.
- 8 A *clairvoyant* is someone who knows exactly what happened in the past.
- 9 To *haunt* means to visit a person or a place regularly. (used of ghosts)
- 10 A *sceptic* is someone who does not believe a person or an idea.
- 11 To *dows* for water is to hunt for water by holding a forked stick over the ground.
- 12 *Fringe medicine* refers to alternative treatments, many of which are not generally recognised by the traditional medical establishment.
- 13 A *cult* is a sect devoted to the practices of a particular religion or set of theories.
- 14 An *atheist* is someone who believes in God.
- 15 *The evil eye* is a look or glance superstitiously supposed to have the power of inflicting harm.
- 16 *Old wives' tales* are superstitious beliefs passed on by word of mouth.
- 17 *Witchcraft* is the art of using magic to make certain, usually evil, things happen.
- 18 A *totem pole* is a carved post set up by certain Native Americans as a tribal symbol.

