

## The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/10/17

### What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?

Today, let's talk about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. What is it about the day that many people are wary about? Why is it unlucky for so many?

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is associated with bad luck. Many people avoid traveling on this day, so it's actually one of the cheapest days to fly. Some people refuse to go to work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Others won't buy a property with a number 13 on its door. Some believe that seating 13 people at a table is bad luck. Movie fans like to watch Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

The superstition surrounding the date actually goes back thousands of years, when the 13 menstrual cycles of a woman was linked to moon worship. Some people believe the origins of the date centre around The Last Supper with Jesus and his 12 apostles. Judas, who betrayed him, was one of them. Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in 1307, thousands of Knights Templar were arrested on the orders of King Philip IV of France. Many were later burned at the stake, as the King was suspicious of their secret initiation rituals.

*Triskaidekaphobics* are scared of the number 13. There are two really difficult names to pronounce for people who suffer the fear of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. These are *friggatriskaidekaphobia* and *paraskevidekatriaphobia*. *Figgatriskaidekaphobia* derives from *Frigg*, the Norse goddess of wisdom, after whom Friday is named. *Paraskevidekatriaphobia* comes from the Greek word *Paraskevi* – Friday, and *dekatreis* means thirteen.

Historically, twelve is seen as a number of completeness. For example, there are 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 months and 12 hours on a clock. Yet, thirteen is seen as irregular and unlucky. The 13<sup>th</sup> tarot card is a sign of death. There are also 13 witches in a coven.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Name the King.
- 2) What happened in 1307?
- 3) Who was Judas?
- 4) Who are scared of the number 13?
- 5) What are the two really difficult names for people who suffer fear of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is a coven?
- 2) What is a witch?
- 3) What is a tarot card?
- 4) Name the movie.
- 5) Historically, twelve is seen as what?

## What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>? – 20/10/2017

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about 'Friday 13<sup>th</sup>'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three new things that are not in the article associated with Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Think of three things you don't like about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Why? Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING – HISTORIC INSTANCES

*In pairs/groups* – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is unlucky for some. Can you think of some historic moments of things that happened on this date? E.g. Black Friday on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 1989, when the global markets went plunging. Discuss together.

### SPEAKING – GAME

*In pairs/groups* – *It is bad luck to...* In two minutes think of as many things as you can about 'bad luck' sayings. Write them down, then discuss together.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Are you superstitious?
- 3) Do you believe in witches?
- 4) Have you flown on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 5) What do you think of the Knights Templar?
- 6) Do you suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobia?
- 7) Do you like the movie Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 8) What do you like to do on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 9) Is your birthday on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 10) Have you ever played with tarot cards? If yes, when?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?*

- 1) You are a *triskaidekaphobic*.
- 2) You are a *paraskevidekatriaphobic*.
- 3) You are a secret witch or wizard.
- 4) Your birthday is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – HOST PRESENTATION

*In pairs* – *Student A* is superstitious about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. *Student B* is not. Start a conversation about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 5 minutes* – As a class.

#### Superstitions in my country

**Talk about them!**

**(If you are superstitious - just throw some salt over your shoulder and you'll be fine!)**

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> harmful to me or is it just folklore?
- 2) Do you know any famous movie or TV witches?
- 3) Do you know anyone who lives at number 13?
- 4) Do you know anyone who refuses to work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 5) What do you think of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?
- 6) Do you have many superstitions in your country?
- 7) Why is 13 unlucky for some?
- 8) What advice would you give a triskaidekaphobic?
- 9) Is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> a disaster for business? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?**

Today, let's talk about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. What is it about the day that many people are (1)\_\_\_ about? Why is it (2)\_\_\_ for so many?

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is associated with bad luck. Many people (3)\_\_\_ traveling on this day, so it's (4)\_\_\_ one of the cheapest days to fly. Some people refuse to go to work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Others won't buy a property with a number 13 on its door. Some (5)\_\_\_ that seating 13 people at a table is bad luck. Movie fans like to watch Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

The (6)\_\_\_ surrounding the date actually goes back thousands of years, when the 13 (7)\_\_\_ cycles of a woman was linked to moon (8)\_\_\_. Some people believe the origins of the date centre around The Last Supper with Jesus and his 12 apostles. Judas, who betrayed him, was one of them. Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

**superstition / wary / actually / unlucky / worship / menstrual / believe / avoid**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in 1307, thousands of Knights Templar were arrested on the orders of King Philip IV of France. Many were later burned at the (1)\_\_\_, as the King was (2)\_\_\_ of their secret (3)\_\_\_ rituals.

*Triskaidekaphobics* are scared of the number 13. There are two really difficult names to (4)\_\_\_ for people who suffer the (5)\_\_\_ of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. These are *friggatriskaidekaphobia* and *paraskevidekatriaphobia*. *Figgatriskaidekaphobia* derives from *Frigg*, the Norse goddess of wisdom, after whom Friday is named. *Paraskevidekatriaphobia* comes from the Greek word *Paraskevi* – Friday, and *dekatreis* means (6)\_\_\_.

Historically, twelve is seen as a number of completeness. For example, there are 12 signs of the (7)\_\_\_, 12 months and 12 hours on a clock. Yet, thirteen is seen as irregular and unlucky. The 13<sup>th</sup> tarot card is a sign of death. There are also 13 witches in a (8)\_\_\_.

**coven / zodiac / suspicious / pronounce / fear / stake / initiation / thirteen**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?**

Today, let's talk about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. (1)\_\_\_ is it about the day that many people are wary about? (2)\_\_\_ is it unlucky (3)\_\_\_ so many?

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is associated with bad luck. (4)\_\_\_ people avoid traveling on this day, so it's actually one of the cheapest days to fly. Some people refuse to go to work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Others won't buy a property (5)\_\_\_ a number 13 on its door. Some believe (6)\_\_\_ seating 13 people at a table is bad luck. Movie fans like to watch Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

The superstition surrounding the date actually goes back thousands of years, (7)\_\_\_ the 13 menstrual cycles of a woman was linked to moon worship. (8)\_\_\_ people believe the origins of the date centre around The Last Supper with Jesus and his 12 apostles. Judas, who betrayed him, was one of them. Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

**many / some / what / with / when / that / for / why /**

(1)\_\_\_ Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in 1307, thousands of Knights Templar were arrested on the orders of King Philip IV of France. Many were later burned at the stake, (2)\_\_\_ the King was suspicious of their secret initiation rituals.

*Triskaidekaphobics* are scared of the number 13. There are two really difficult names to pronounce (3)\_\_\_ people (4)\_\_\_ suffer the fear (5)\_\_\_ Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. These are *friggatriskaidekaphobia* and *paraskevidekatriaphobia*. *Figgatriskaidekaphobia* derives from *Frigg*, the Norse goddess of wisdom, after whom Friday is named. *Paraskevidekatriaphobia* comes from the Greek word *Paraskevi* – Friday, and *dekatreis* means thirteen.

Historically, twelve is seen as a number of completeness. For example, there are 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 months and 12 hours on a clock. (6)\_\_\_, thirteen is seen as irregular (7)\_\_\_ unlucky. The 13<sup>th</sup> tarot card is a sign of death. There are also 13 witches (8)\_\_\_ a coven.

**in / on / of / as / yet / for / who / and**

## What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>? – 20/10/2017



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?

Today, let's talk about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. What is it about the day that \_\_\_\_\_ about? Why is it unlucky for so many?

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is associated with bad luck. Many people avoid traveling on this day, so it's actually one of the cheapest days to fly. \_\_\_\_\_ to go to work on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Others won't buy a property with a number 13 on its door. Some believe that seating 13 people at a table is bad luck. Movie fans like to watch Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

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On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in 1307, thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ were arrested on the orders of King Philip IV of France. Many were later burned at the stake, as the King was suspicious of their secret initiation rituals.

\_\_\_\_\_ are scared of the number 13. There are two really difficult names to pronounce for people who suffer the fear of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. These are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. *Figgatriskaidekaphobia* derives from *Frigg*, the Norse goddess of wisdom, after whom Friday is named. *Paraskevidekatriaphobia* comes from the Greek word *Paraskevi* – Friday, and *dekatreis* means thirteen.

Historically, twelve is seen as a \_\_\_\_\_. For example, there are 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 months and 12 hours on a clock. Yet, thirteen is seen as irregular and unlucky. The 13<sup>th</sup> tarot card is a sign of death. There are also 13 \_\_\_\_\_.

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list **10 things associated with bad luck. Why?** Talk briefly about each of them. *Five minutes*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Friday 13<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) I think \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The date \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: *What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?*** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>?***

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) wary
- 2) suspicious
- 3) pronounce
- 4) fear
- 5) really
- 6) triskaidekaphobia
- 7) paraskevidekatriaphobia
- 8) historically
- 9) zodiac
- 10) thirteen

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) figgatriskaidekaphobia
- 12) whom
- 13) twelve
- 14) irregular
- 15) unlucky
- 16) coven
- 17) witches
- 18) tarot
- 19) yet
- 20) believe

What is it about Friday 13<sup>th</sup>? – 20/10/2017