

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

What is it about Friday 13th?

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

Friday 13th 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 13th. 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 13th.

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 13th 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 13th. 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 13th 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 13th. 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 13th?

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?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about 'Friday 13th'. *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 13th. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

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

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING – HISTORIC INSTANCES

In pairs/groups – Friday 13th is unlucky for some. Can you think of some historic moments of things that happened on this date? E.g. Black Friday on Friday 13th 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 13th?
- 5) What do you think of the Knights Templar?
- 6) Do you suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobia?
- 7) Do you like the movie Friday 13th?
- 8) What do you like to do on Friday 13th?
- 9) Is your birthday on Friday 13th?
- 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 13th?*

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

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 13th. *Student B* is not. Start a conversation about Friday 13th. *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 13th 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 13th?
- 5) What do you think of Friday 13th?
- 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 13th a disaster for business? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

What is it about Friday 13th?

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

Friday 13th 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 13th. 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 13th.

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 13th 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 13th. 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 13th 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 13th?

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

Friday 13th 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 13th. 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 13th.

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 13th 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 13th. 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 13th tarot card is a sign of death. There are also 13 witches (8)___ a coven.

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

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

What is it about Friday 13th?

Today, let's talk about Friday 13th. What is it about the day that _____ about? Why is it unlucky for so many?

Friday 13th 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 13th. 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 13th.

The _____ 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 _____ Jesus and his 12 apostles. Judas, who betrayed him, was one of them. Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

On Friday 13th 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 13th. 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 13th 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 13th _____
- 2) I think _____
- 3) The date _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *What is it about Friday 13th?* 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 13th?***

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

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