

Proverbs

A proverb is a wise old saying.

Match the following proverbs to the meanings below.

Proverbs

- 1 Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
- 2 Empty vessels make the most noise.
- 3 Still waters run deep.
- 4 Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- 5 A stitch in time saves nine.
- 6 Familiarity breeds contempt.
- 7 The faraway hills are always greener.
- 8 Many hands make light work.
- 9 An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
- 10 A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- 11 Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
- 12 Curiosity killed the cat.

Meanings

- A Being nosy can get you into trouble.
- B It is sometimes easier to like someone when they are far away.
- C Quiet people are often very wise.
- D The more you know somebody, the less you like them.
- E People working together get the job done more quickly.
- F Eating fruit is good for your health.
- G Appreciate what you have – do not lose it by being greedy.
- H Fix things straight away, before they get ruined.
- I Silly people can be very noisy.
- J The things you actually have are often better than the things you want.
- K Too many people doing a job get in each other's way.
- L Do not rely on something until you are sure that you have it.



CHECK-UP

One person in the class should read out a meaning and another should say the proverb it matches.

Not So Lucky Luke

Luke was a very superstitious person and today was Friday the 13th, the unluckiest day in the whole calendar. Luke had known that this day was coming and he was taking every precaution.

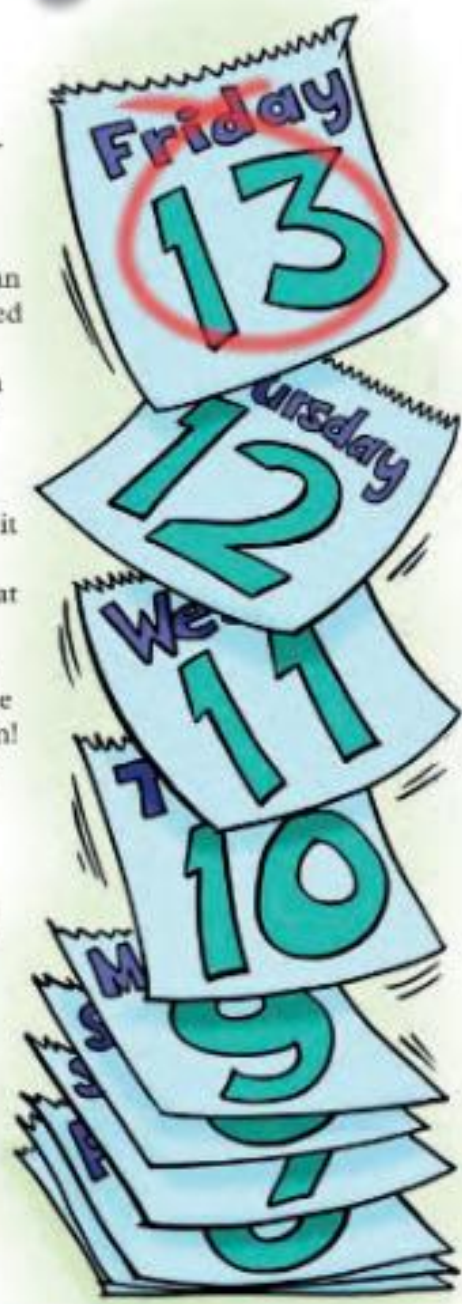
That morning, he put on his lucky Superman socks. He put his lucky leprechaun, his furry rabbit's foot and an acorn in his coat pocket. On the way to school, he avoided stepping on the cracks on the pavement.

When he got to school, he saw that the caretaker had a ladder against the side of the wall. Some children dared each other to walk under the ladder but Luke kept well away. During class, Luke kept his fingers crossed the whole time. It made it very difficult for him to write but it was worth the effort. Nothing bad happened to him.

In fact, the whole day went remarkably well. A black cat crossed his path on the way home. Strangely, Luke had always considered this to be a very lucky omen. He saw two magpies in his garden – two for joy! He ate one apple – an apple a day keeps the doctor away! Another good sign!

Bedtime came. Luke had survived the dreaded Friday the 13th! Not even one mishap and actually some good luck signs as well!

He slammed the door of his bedroom shut, as usual. Unfortunately, the heavy iron horseshoe hanging over it (to ward off bad luck) fell on his head and knocked him out. This proved once again that you can never be too careful on Friday the 13th! ■



CHECK-UP

- 1 What day did Luke dread most of all? Why?
- 2 What did he put in his coat pocket?
- 3 What was left leaning up against the wall?
- 4 What lucky omen did Luke see that day?
- 5 Why did Luke have a horseshoe hanging over his bedroom door?

Lighthouses *and* Lightships

A lighthouse

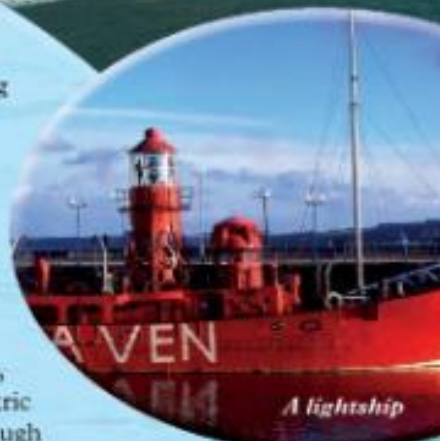
Long ago, sailing was very dangerous. Ships were often wrecked because they were sailed onto rocks or got too near land and ran aground. Dark nights, terrible weather and bad maps were the three most common reasons for ships getting into trouble. To warn ships that they were in danger, a big signal fire was often lit on land near dangerous coastlines. The captains of ships would see the fire from far away and know that they were near land. Some high towers were built, on which these fires were lit. This was the start of lighthouses being built.

Lighthouse keepers looked after the lighthouses, making sure the ships at sea were safe when near land. Over the years, the light used changed from fire, to candles, to oil lamps, to gaslights, and then to electric lights. These bright lights saved many lives down through the years. Each lighthouse was painted differently so sailors could tell them apart and also know where they were.

Hook Head Lighthouse in County Wexford is one of the oldest lighthouses in the world. It has been working for more than 800 years.

In very deep water or in places where there is not enough land on which to build, special ships are used instead of lighthouses. These lightships have a tower with a bright light to warn sailors of dangerous rocks at sea. Lightships have red markers on them to make them easier to see in daytime.

Life at sea has become much safer for sailors in recent years with inventions such as radar and GPS (global positioning system). Even so, lighthouses and lightships still do an important job helping to warn of danger at sea. ■



A lightship

CHECK-UP

- 1 Why were ships often wrecked long ago?
- 2 What did lighthouse keepers use to make the light over the years?
- 3 Why are lighthouses painted differently?
- 4 Why are lightships sometimes used?
- 5 What modern inventions help to keep sailors safe nowadays?

Soccer

People have played ball-kicking games for centuries. Soldiers in ancient China played a game called 'cuju'. Soccer has been played in England for many hundreds of years. It was in England that the game evolved into the modern soccer game now played.

In the olden days, an inflated pig's bladder was sometimes used as a football. The 'football matches' were pretty wild. The games were often played on Shrove Tuesday and on holy days, when people had a day off. There were basically no rules. Up to 100 players could be involved. Carrying the ball, punching and kicking were all allowed. Goals were counted on sticks called tallies. Sometimes whole villages played against each other in day-long matches. Serious injuries were commonplace.

In towns and cities, the games were played on the streets and in the marketplace. There was much disruption and many injuries. King Henry VIII even banned soccer in the 16th century, as some of his soldiers were getting injured while playing!

To try to make soccer a safer game, some basic rules were finally drawn up. This changed the game from a violent one to an organised team sport. In the 19th century, some schools started to devise proper rules for the game. The formal rules of soccer were finally written down by the Football Association in England in 1863.

Nowadays, soccer is played by both professional and amateur players the world over. It is one of the most popular games in the world. Every four years, millions of people watch the final of the World Cup. ■



CHECK-UP

- 1 What game did soldiers in ancient China play?
- 2 What animal part was sometimes used as a football?
- 3 Why did King Henry VIII ban soccer?
- 4 Why were basic rules written down for soccer?
- 5 How often is the World Cup held?