

## 02 Market analysis

### Student A

- 1 Read the text and think about the words and phrases that might fit in the gaps. Write your ideas in pencil or on another sheet of paper.
- 2 Ask Student B questions to find the information to complete the gaps. For example:  
*What do sailors never get on a boat with?*
- 3 When you have finished, compare your texts and talk about any superstitions that you have or that you know about in your profession.

### FRIDAY THE 13TH, ANYONE?

An aquarium full of tropical fish, a plastic model of a dinosaur, a pair of trainers once worn by film star Bruce Willis, a green pen, a cheese and tomato sandwich and a toilet. What do all these things have in common? They all feature in the superstitions of stock market traders.

Most professions have their own superstitions. Actors don't wish each other good luck at the beginning of a play, they say 'Break a leg!' instead. Sailors never get on a boat with (a) \_\_\_\_\_. And they won't point at (b) \_\_\_\_\_ before their boat departs. Firefighters believe they will be called to a fire if they clean their boots while on duty. Surgeons think it is bad luck to operate on a patient who (c) \_\_\_\_\_ as themselves. Teachers worry that if a (d) \_\_\_\_\_ breaks in the middle of a lesson, it is a sign that they won't get a pay rise for a very long time.

Desperate to beat the market, it seems that some traders will resort to extraordinary means to get that extra edge and outperform their colleagues and rivals. So how do all those things listed at the beginning of this article help?

- A trader who noticed that one of his tropical fish died at the beginning of a market fall apparently now believes that buying more fish will turn a bear market into a bull market.
- The dinosaur and the trainers (once worn by Bruce Willis) both belong to the same bond trader. They are (e) \_\_\_\_\_ which he believes will bring him luck. The dinosaur sits on his computer, and he (f) \_\_\_\_\_ in the hope that they will provoke a bond rally.
- The green pen is used by a trader who believes that he will lose money if he writes up his trades in red or black.
- The cheese and tomato sandwich is eaten by a trader who has (g) \_\_\_\_\_ every day because he believes that eating something different will cause the market to fall.
- And the toilet? Well, one foreign exchange dealer has identified a particular cubicle in the company toilets as 'unlucky'. Even when the toilets are crowded and he is desperate, he will never use it for fear of the (h) \_\_\_\_\_ that will surely follow!

## Student B

- 1 Read the text and think about the words and phrases that might fit in the gaps. Write your ideas in pencil or on another sheet of paper.
- 2 Ask Student A questions to find the information to complete the gaps. For example:  
*What do actors say to each other instead of 'good luck'?*
- 3 When you have finished, compare your texts and talk about any superstitions that you have or that you know about in your profession.

# FRIDAY THE 13TH, ANYONE?

An aquarium full of tropical fish, a plastic model of a dinosaur, a pair of trainers once worn by film star Bruce Willis, a green pen, a cheese and tomato sandwich and a toilet. What do all these things have in common? They all feature in the superstitions of stock market traders.

Most professions have their own superstitions. Actors don't wish each other good luck at the beginning of a play: they say (a) \_\_\_\_\_ instead. Sailors never get on a boat with their left foot first. And they won't point at the sky before their boat departs. Firefighters believe they will be called to a fire if they (b) \_\_\_\_\_ while on duty. Surgeons think it is bad luck to operate on a patient who shares the same first and middle names as themselves. Teachers worry that if a chair breaks in the middle of a lesson, it is a sign that they won't get a pay rise for a very long time.

Desperate to beat the market, it seems that some traders will resort to extraordinary means to get that extra edge and outperform their colleagues and rivals. So how do all those things listed at the beginning of this article help?

- A stock market trader who noticed that one of his tropical fish died at the beginning of a market fall apparently now believes that (c) \_\_\_\_\_ will turn a bear market into a bull market.
- The dinosaur and the trainers (once worn by Bruce Willis) both belong to (d) \_\_\_\_\_. They are lucky charms which he believes will bring him luck. The dinosaur sits (e) \_\_\_\_\_, and he puts the trainers on his feet in the hope that they will provoke a bond rally.
- The green pen is used by a trader who believes that he will (f) \_\_\_\_\_ if he writes up his trades in red or black.
- The cheese and tomato sandwich is eaten by a trader who has the same lunch every day because he believes that (g) \_\_\_\_\_ will cause the market to fall.
- And the toilet? Well, one foreign exchange dealer has identified (h) \_\_\_\_\_ as 'unlucky'. Even when the toilets are crowded and he is desperate, he will never use it for fear of the currency crash that will surely follow!