

1B Do you believe in it?

1 READING

a Read the text. Which topic is not mentioned?

politics relationships business food sport

INDIA

The dream destination for astrology addicts

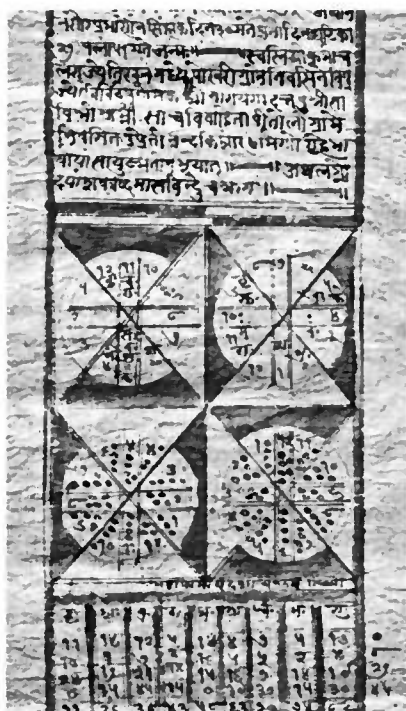
While in Britain the general belief in astrology is limited to glancing at horoscopes in newspapers and magazines, in India people take their star signs very seriously indeed.

Astrology programmes are shown on many of India's 320 television channels, and at least a dozen stations are devoted entirely to astrology 24 hours a day. Kolkata housewife Lata Banerji always starts her day by turning on the astrology channel, Shristi, to find out what the day holds for her and whether she will have to face any kind of domestic crisis. She also receives information on what food she should eat to avoid illness. 'It gives me the confidence I need to face the day,' she says. 'Americans go to a therapist every week to cope with life. I get my sense of wellbeing from the advice I get from astrologers.'

Astrology is important in India in all walks of life, but especially when it comes to choosing a marriage partner. Some astrological combinations are considered unfavourable, for example when the planet Mars is in a certain position on a person's

birth chart. In this case, people believe that the couple will not get on and that their marriage will end badly. The only way around this is for the person with the unlucky combination to 'marry' something symbolic before their real wedding. This is exactly what Bollywood actress and former Miss World, Aishwarya Rai did some years ago when she 'married' a banana tree in the hope of avoiding problems in her marriage with the actor Abhishek Bachchan.

Yet, it is not only in the field of love that Indians seek astrological advice. There are



b Read the text again and choose the right answer.

- 1 ...radio stations are only about astrology.
a 320 b 12 c 24
 - 2 Lata Banerji watches an astrology channel...
a to help her in her daily life.
b because she is very worried about getting ill.
c because she can't afford a therapist.
 - 3 The actress Aishwarya Rai married a tree...
a to make sure it produced a lot of bananas.
b to bring her luck in the search for a husband.
c to ensure her marriage was successful.
 - 4 According to the text, Indians ask astrologers...
a how they should vote in the election.
b where they can get a good job.
c for advice about many things.
 - 5 Sunita Menon works as...
a an adviser for a well-known company.
b a tarot card reader.
c a flight attendant.
- c Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases. What do you think they mean? Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

some programmes on TV that specialize in medical astrology, with callers asking about health issues. Others provide investment and business advice. Astrology is even important in politics with prime ministers asking their astrologers for a 'promising' date before announcing a general election.

Nowadays it is almost obligatory for Indian parents to have a horoscope drawn up when a baby is born. Two people taking advantage of the boom in business are Kalidas Sriram and Vishi Babu, who have put up their tents complete with laptop computer and printer, right outside Kolkata's main hospital. They either visit the maternity wards or wait outside until new parents leave to offer their services. For the equivalent of €3 they use the baby's time and date of birth to print out a horoscope for the delighted parents.

Many Indians have no doubt that astrology can change people's lives for the better. The glamorous Sunita Menon, India's most famous fortune-teller, was an air hostess until a tarot reader predicted that she would change jobs. Now she is the presenter of a hugely popular television programme and was recently hired by India's most famous music company to advise on investment and business decisions.



Sunita Menon

2 VOCABULARY compound adjectives

Complete the sentences with compound adjectives formed from the words in brackets.



- 1 My grandmother is always forgetting her keys. She's very absent-minded. (mind)
- 2 Oliver's new girlfriend isn't as mad as he is. She seems quite _____. (balance)
- 3 Our English teacher doesn't get angry easily. She's extremely _____. (temper)
- 4 My parents are quite _____. They won't listen to other people's opinions. (mind)
- 5 Grace never thinks of anyone else because she's so _____. (centre)
- 6 My sister-in-law is very _____. She says one thing and does another. (face)
- 7 Since he went abroad, Jack has become more _____ about other cultures. (mind)
- 8 You won't be able to change her mind – she's very _____. (will)
- 9 When we go out my friend Jack never offers to buy the drinks. I wish he wasn't so _____. (fist)
- 10 The new manager thinks a lot of himself. He's very _____. (head)

3 MINI GRAMMAR the... the... + comparatives

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 The more you worry about it, the worse you'll feel. (worry a lot, bad)
- 2 The _____ you own, the _____ you become. (a lot of gadgets, lazy)
- 3 The _____ you are, the _____ he'll be. (late, angry)
- 4 The _____ my English, the _____ I'll speak. (practise a lot, good)
- 5 The _____ it gets, the _____ you have to wear. (cold, a lot of clothes)
- 6 The _____ you do, the _____ you'll get. (a lot of exercise, fit)

4 GRAMMAR auxiliary verbs

Complete the dialogues with a question tag or an auxiliary and the subject if necessary.

- 1 A I texted you last night, but you didn't reply.
B Yes, I did reply. I texted you straight away.
- 2 A I don't feel like cooking tonight.
B Neither _____. Shall we go out for dinner? I'd love a curry.
A So _____. Come on. Let's go.
- 3 A I've seen this film before.
B Well, I _____.
A Do you mind if I change channels?
B Yes, I _____ mind! I want to see the end.
- 4 A You are going to Sam's party, _____?
B No, I'm not.
A Why not? You haven't argued with him again, _____?
B Yes. And we aren't going out together any more.
- 5 A I'll be back a bit late tonight.
B _____ you? Where are you going?
A To a concert with some friends.
B Oh, OK. You'll be back before 12 _____?
A Of course.
- 6 A Pete, you couldn't lend me some money _____?
B No, sorry. Why?
A I've spent all my salary this month.
B So _____. That's why I can't lend you any!
- 7 A I didn't go out last night.
B Neither _____. I was too tired.
A So _____.
- 8 A You aren't from round here, _____?
B No, I'm from Australia. I haven't been here long.
A I don't suppose you like the British weather.
B Actually, I _____ like it. I prefer cool weather to hot weather.