

1 Read and complete the text with the words in the list.

- setbacks • wallet • money • beliefs • year
- babies • cupboards • sadness • doors • debt
- rubbish • happiness

New Year's Superstitions

New Year's isn't just a time when we make resolutions. It's also a time when age-old superstitions about the coming year surface and people around the world have different ways of making sure that the **1)** _____ to come will be a good one. Let's look at some superstitious dos and don'ts.

FOOD

DO eat foods that are round in shape, like doughnuts or lentils. Their circular shape resembles coins and that means that you'll have lots of **2)** _____ and good luck for the rest of the year.

DON'T eat lobster or chicken. Lobsters walk backwards and chickens scratch backwards, so eating them will bring you **3)** _____ in the new year and you won't have any progress in your life.



THE HOME

DO stock your **4)** _____ with food and other things the house needs. If you don't, you risk facing poverty and hardship in the next twelve months.

DO open all **5)** _____ at midnight on New Year's Eve. This will make it easier for the old year to leave without problems and the new, promising year to freely enter your house.

DON'T take anything out of the house on New Year's Day. This includes taking out the **6)** _____, putting the recycling in the bin or returning something you've borrowed. If you do, you will keep losing things for a whole year.



PEOPLE

DO kiss your friends and family to make sure that the year ahead is full of love, **7)** _____ and good company.

DO consider yourself extremely fortunate if you were born on New Year's Day. New Year **8)** _____ are thought to be very lucky for themselves and those around them.

DON'T cry on New Year's Day, no matter how upset or emotional you are. You could have a whole year of **9)** _____ ahead if you do.



MONEY

DO make sure you carry some money on you on New Year's Day. Welcoming the new year with money in your **10)** _____ or in your pocket will ensure wealth for the months to come.

DON'T leave any bills unpaid and return any money you have borrowed. This is to make sure that you don't get into **11)** _____ in the new year.



Whatever you call them, superstitions, myths, old wives' tales, these and dozens of others are traditional **12)** _____ that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Millions of people are convinced that they can have an effect on our lives.

2 **ICT** Look up information online to find ten more New Year's superstitions. Use the information to prepare a quiz. Swap quizzes with a partner to see who gets the most correct answers.