

Tune in

- 1 Before you listen, name four major religions. Are you a member of one of these faiths? Or are you an atheist or agnostic?
- 2 Now listen to these three speakers. Write **T** (true), **F** (false) or **?** (don't know) next to each statement.



Alicia



George



Pippa

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| a believes in Darwin's theory of evolution <input type="checkbox"/> | g believes in God <input type="checkbox"/> | l is not interested in organised religion <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b wants to be a scientist <input type="checkbox"/> | h believes in an afterlife <input type="checkbox"/> | m believes in God <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c believes in God <input type="checkbox"/> | i thinks religion is necessary for a moral sense <input type="checkbox"/> | n meditates and does yoga <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d goes to church once a week <input type="checkbox"/> | j doesn't believe in marriage <input type="checkbox"/> | o believes in reincarnation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e prays <input type="checkbox"/> | k agrees with the Catholic church on contraception <input type="checkbox"/> | p isn't superstitious <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f believes in an afterlife <input type="checkbox"/> | | q believes in astrology <input type="checkbox"/> |

Key Language

Read these sentences from the tape.

"I don't believe in Adam and Eve... . But I **do** believe in God."
 "My faith **does** help me."
 "I **do** think it's possible..."
 "I **do** believe in reincarnation."

You can use **do/does** and **did** to add emphasis, particularly when you think the listener disagrees or if s/he is doubtful.

Example:
Really, I **did** enjoy the meeting.

You can also use **do/does/did** for contrast.

Example:
I don't believe in heaven and hell, but I **do** believe in reincarnation.

3 Write five questions about beliefs. You can get ideas from Exercise 2 above.

Example:
Do you believe in an afterlife? Do you go to church regularly?

4 In pairs, ask and answer the questions you wrote for Exercise 3. Where possible, use **do/did/does** in your answers for emphasis or contrast.

Over to you

5 Do you think it is possible to have strong moral values without having a religion to guide you? Think about your own attitudes to:

- killing
- stealing
- helping people who are weaker than yourself

Are your attitudes based on religious beliefs, your family or school's moral views, the law in your country?

6 In Britain, Christianity is the state religion. By law, every school in England should have a religious service every day and teach religious education. Do you think this is right? What sort of religious education is best in a multi-cultural society?

7 Give a short speech on your beliefs or religious practices.

8 The photos above show four British superstitions. Explain what they are, saying which things are lucky or unlucky. Do you have the same superstitions in your country? Are you or any of your friends and family superstitious? In what way? Why do you think some people are superstitious?



Write about it

9 Write a questionnaire about beliefs and religious practices. Prepare about 12 questions. Here are some possibilities.

Do you believe in...

God?

an afterlife?

Do you...

pray?

attend religious services regularly?

attend religious services only on special occasions?

If so, which ones? _____