Input - Old Wives' Tales

1) Read the definition and discuss the questions with your classmates.

Old Wives' Tales...

Old wives' tale *is a term used to indicate that a supposed truth is actually spurious or a superstition. It can be said sometimes to be a type of urban legend, said to be passed down by older women to a younger generation. Such tales are considered superstition, folklore or unverified claims with exaggerated and/or inaccurate details.*

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_wives%27_tale

a) Were your ideas similar or different from the definition you have just read? ***(Possible answers: They were different/similar.)***
b) Have you ever heard of or said any Old Wives' Tales? Which? ***(Answers may vary. Encourage students to share their experiences.)***

2) Old Wives' Tales express cultural beliefs related to our actions. They provide consequences for a specific behavior of ours. Can you identify the behavior and its consequence in each of these sentences? Analyze the sentences, underline the the behavior and circle its possible consequence. Compare your answers with your partner's.

Possible answers: the clauses in bold represent the *behavior* and the clauses in italics represent the *possible consequence.*

a) **If you sit too close to the TV,** *you will have eye diseases.*
b) **If you eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve,** *you will have 12 months of good luck.*
c) **If you go outside wearing not enough clothes,** *you will get a cold.*
d) **If you swallow a piece of gum,** *it will be in your stomach for seven years.*
e) **If you drink coffee when you are drunk,** *it will help you sober up.*