

Unit 6 Written quiz audio script

(Track 7)

Greg You know, Alison, I never thought Americans were superstitious, but we are. . . .

Alison Why? What do you mean?

Greg Well, just last week, I was looking at my map of the downtown area, and I realized – there isn't any Thirteenth Street! I hadn't ever noticed that. There's a street between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets, but it's called Ramona, not Thirteenth. I know a lot of Americans think thirteen is an unlucky number, but I didn't think people would actually avoid calling a street that. Isn't that weird?

Alison Yeah, but I'm not at all surprised. You remember the building I used to live in – where I had that apartment on the top floor?

Greg Sure. The view was fantastic.

Alison Uh-huh. Anyway, I thought that apartment was on the twelfth floor.

Greg So did I. It wasn't?

Alison No. They called it the twelfth, but it was actually on the *thirteenth*. See, the first floor and the ground floor are usually the same thing, but in that building, the ground floor was called something else.

Greg Really? What was it called?

Alison It was called the plaza level. Then the floor *above* the plaza level was called the first floor, and so on. So the top floor was called the twelfth, instead of the thirteenth. Get it?

Greg Oh, I see. They didn't want to have a thirteenth floor, so they called the real first floor something else – the plaza level.

Alison Exactly. So I think Americans *can* be pretty superstitious after all. Maybe they think people won't want to live on Thirteenth Street or the thirteenth floor, so they just make it "disappear." Don't you think that's strange?

Greg Yeah, it really is.