



Astrology and forms of **divination** such as palm reading, tarot cards, or **numerology** have long influenced Thai culture. However, due to social distancing rules, many **fortune tellers** are now online to continue their work.

Young Thais are experiencing soaring levels of stress from the health crisis and job concerns, and many are getting help from fortune telling. According to health experts, stress levels are very high.

A new fortune telling application brings together 7,000 online fortune tellers to people; it has had a sharp increase in the number of users. According to some fortune tellers, since the pandemic, people are asking more questions about careers instead of love and relationships.

**Difficult words:** **divination** (the skill of saying or discovering what will happen in the future), **numerology** (the study of numbers, such as a person's date of birth, in the belief that they have a special meaning in a person's life), **fortune teller** (a person who is able to predict a person's future).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *divination, numerology and fortune teller*
2. What different forms of divination have long influenced Thai culture?
3. How are fortune tellers able to continue their work despite the pandemic?
4. Why are young Thais seeking help from fortune tellers?
5. What brings fortune tellers together to continue their services to people?
6. What questions do people ask fortune tellers more about since the pandemic?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do people in your country believe in Astrology and different forms of divination?
2. Do you believe in fortune telling? Have you ever been to a fortune teller?  
*If yes, tell me more?*
3. How popular is fortune telling such as, palm reading, tarot card reading and using numerology in your country?
4. Have you tried using an online fortune telling application? *If yes, how was it?*