

SUPERSTITIONS

"I'M NOT
SUPERSTITIOUS!"



(But are you sure?)



**Superstition is belief in things that
are not real or possible , for
example magic**

**Superstition (предвзассудок, суеверие) is
a belief in things or events that bring
good or bad luck that is not logical or has
no scientific explanation.**

**omen ['əʊmən] – знамение, знак,
примета= sign**

- There are a lot of different superstitions and omens in every culture. But some of them are similar.
- In every country you can find the superstitions about money, good or bad luck, weather, holidays.



Superstitions & Bad Luck Omens



Black Cats

Broken Mirrors

Owls

Salt

Unlucky Number #13



Good Luck Superstitions

Horseshoes
Four Leaf Clover
Rabbit's Foot
Wishbones



*It a black cat crosses
your path it's for
bad luck, because it
might be a witch*



If you spill salt, you must
throw it over your shoulder
to counteract the bad luck.



Russian Superstitions

Seeing a spider is
usually a lucky sign.



If your right hand itches, you are going to get money soon.



Russian Superstitions

If a cat washes its face, expect guests soon



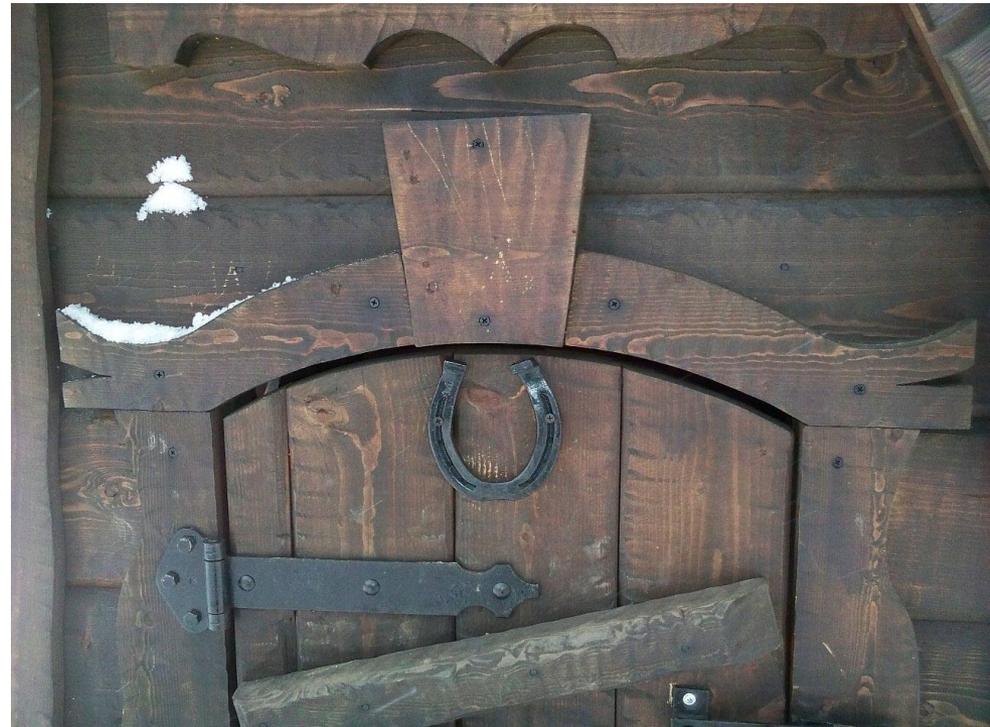


The number 13 is said to be a very unlucky number in many cultures

Some buildings still do not have an official 13th floor and many people avoid driving or going anywhere on Friday the 13th.

A horseshoe over the door brings good luck

You must hang it over the door with the open end up, so the good fortune doesn't spill out.



UMBRELLAS

- **Don't open your umbrella inside the house! It brings bad luck!**
- Did you know that if you open an umbrella indoors, it means bad luck?
- In old days umbrellas were used only as a sunshade. Today we mostly use them when it rains.



Remember: you mustn't give an umbrella as a gift or place it on the top of a table or on the top of a bed.

One should also try to avoid dropping it on the floor – all this would bring bad luck.



Superstitions in the USA

- It is normal to build a house with non-straight design windows in Vermont, the United States. They believe that such design won't allow the witches and bad spirits to fly through the window.



Fingers crossed:
Crossing the
forefinger and
middle finger is
a common
gesture to wish
for good luck



Rabbit's foot: Some
people carry real
rabbits' feet, often on
key chains, for good
luck.



British Superstitions

Keep your shoes off the furniture.

Putting **shoes** on the table is bad luck. Some people even avoid putting **shoes** on chairs or footstools.

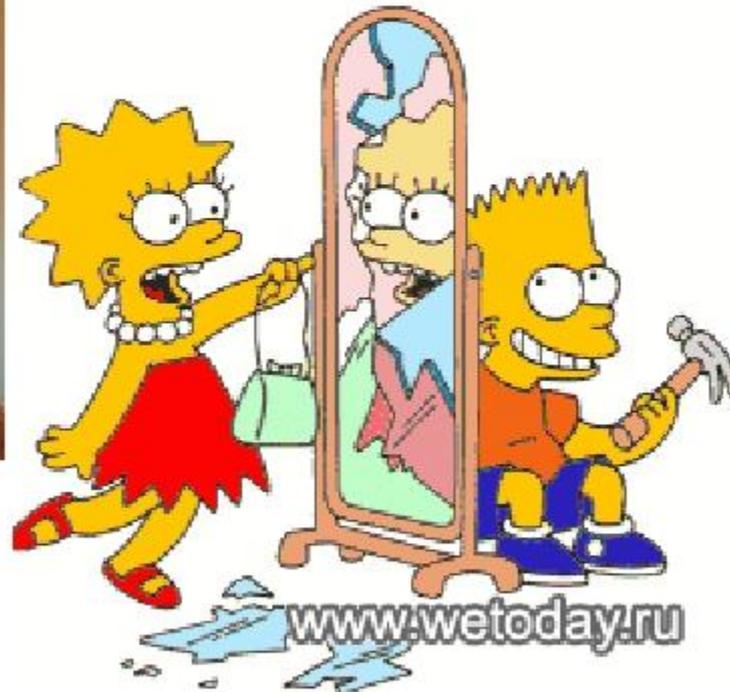


In some parts of the UK meeting two or three Ravens together is considered really bad. One very English superstition concerns the tame Ravens at the Tower of London. It is believed if they leave then the crown of England will be lost.



England. Unlucky Events!

Don't go under the stairs!



Don't look at the broken mirror!

Luck Superstitions



- **Never open an umbrella in the house. That's very bad luck (Italy, Britain)**

Catch falling leaves in autumn and you'll have good luck (Britain)



Russian superstitions

Returning home for forgotten things is a bad omen.

A woman with empty water buckets coming towards you is considered a bad omen.

Two or more people should never use one towel at the same time to dry their hands or bodies, or it is said to bring conflict.

Whistling in a house would bring misfortune to that household.



If a black cat crosses your path, it's bad luck

If a cat is washing its face, expect guests soon.

If you spill salt, it's bad luck and is said to bring conflict, but no one will throw salt over their left shoulder.



If it's raining when you leave a place, it means you'll return, and it is considered a generally good omen.

Accidentally breaking a glass is considered good luck.



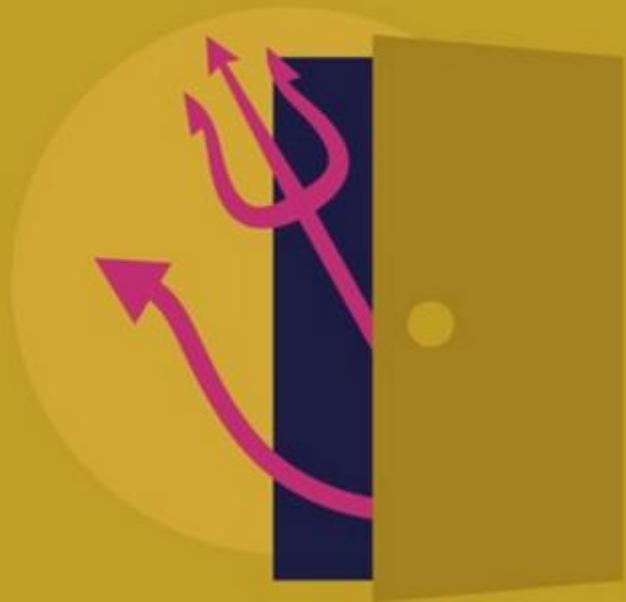
If you sing in the evening in Netherlands, it is considered to be bad luck. That is because the belief is that singing at night is like singing for the evil spirits.

Hootlet

05 LITHUANIA



Whistling indoors is thought to summon devils, hell bent on terrorising you.



Household superstitions in Russia

Put clothes on - to
the discord.



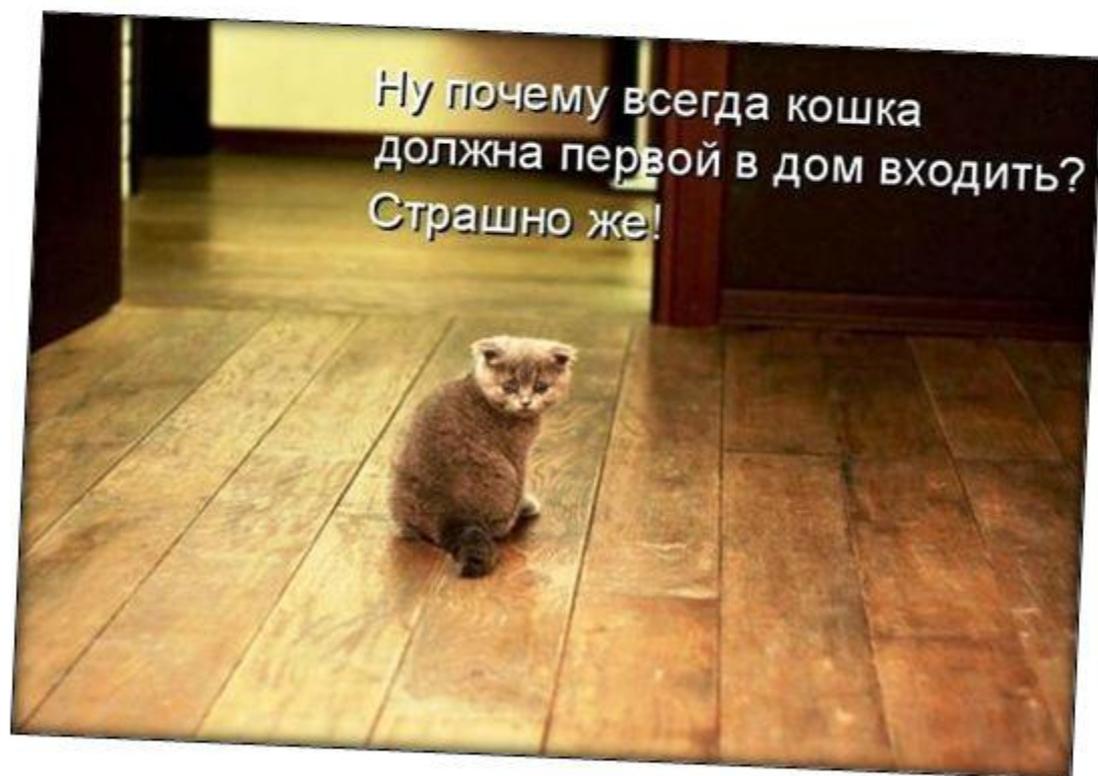
In the evening you can
not take out the garbage
- along with it money
leaves.



You can not sit on the
doorstep - you'll draw a
disease. It's not worth to
stay there

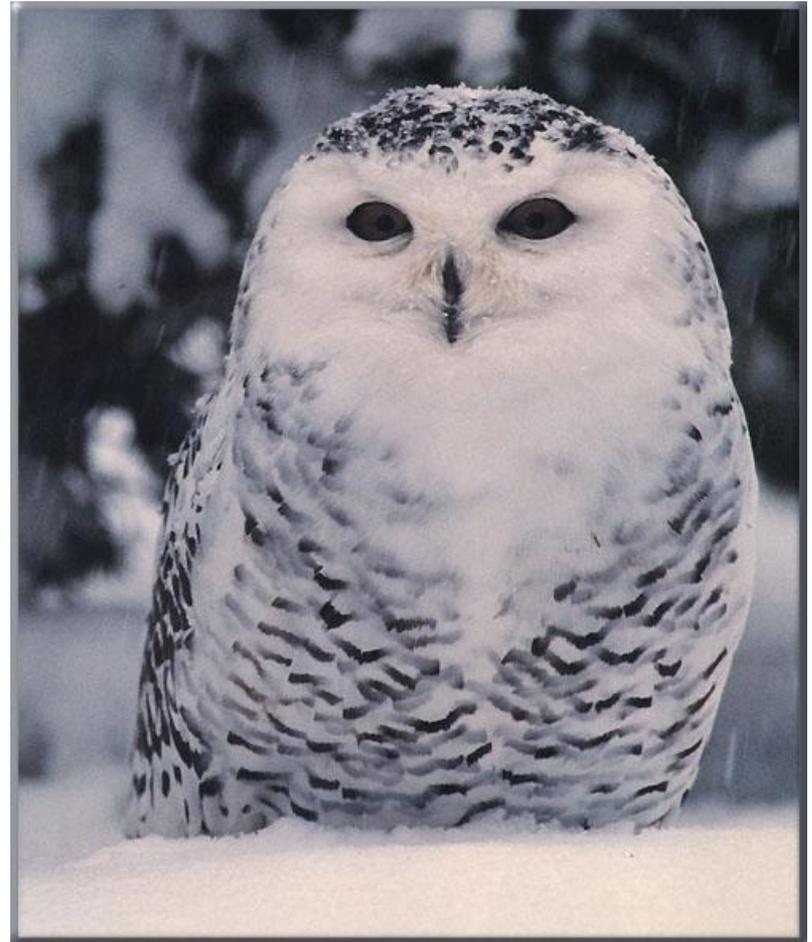
Superstitions in Belarus

Moving to the new house one must first let a cat go in first to assure harmony in the household.



Superstitions in Egypt

- People in Egypt believe that owls are the birds that bring bad luck.



Superstitions in Denmark

- In Denmark people keep on collecting the pieces of broken plates and glasses in the whole year. When the new year celebration comes, they throw those broken pieces on their friends or family. This is the belief of tighten the friendship and relationship between people to become closer.



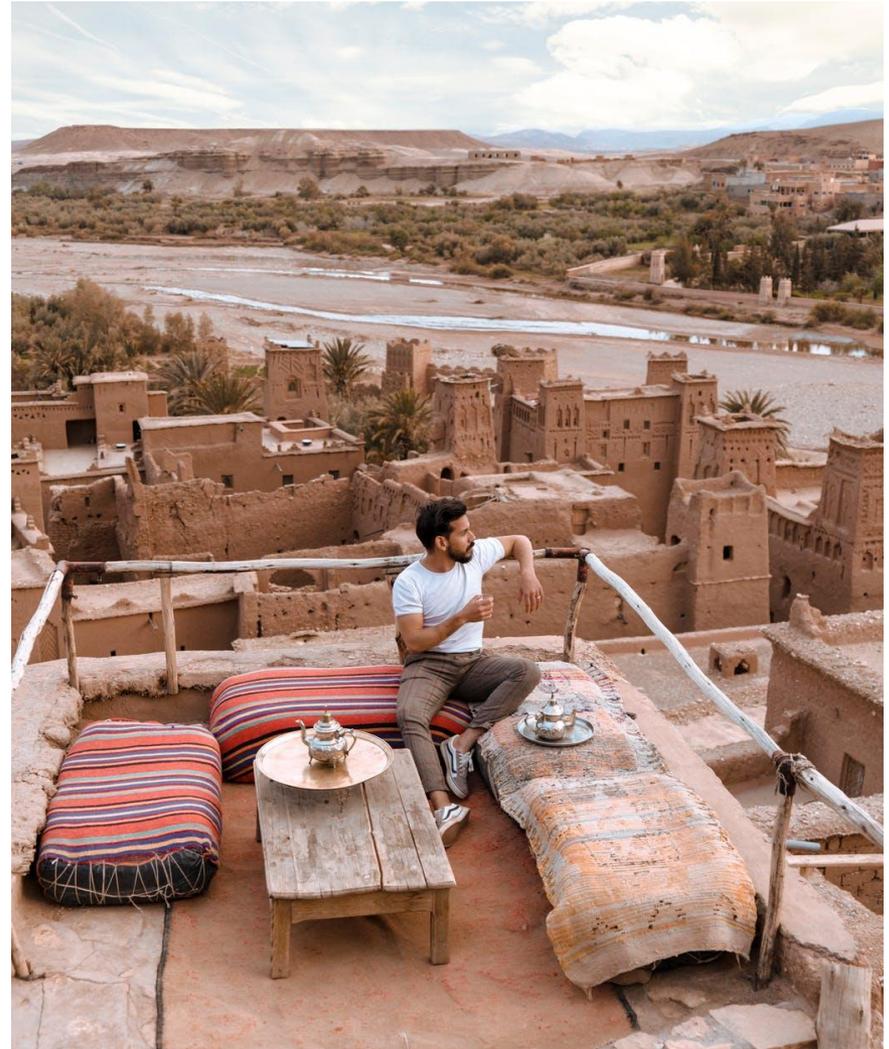
Superstitions in China

- Number 4 is a very bad and unlucky number in China and Japan. That is because the pronunciation of this number is similar to the word 'death'. More than that, you won't find any 4th floor in the elevator in most buildings in China at all. There are only floor 1, 2, 3, and up to 5 and so on. Floor number 4 is like the floor to hell or bad luck, they are so serious about this.



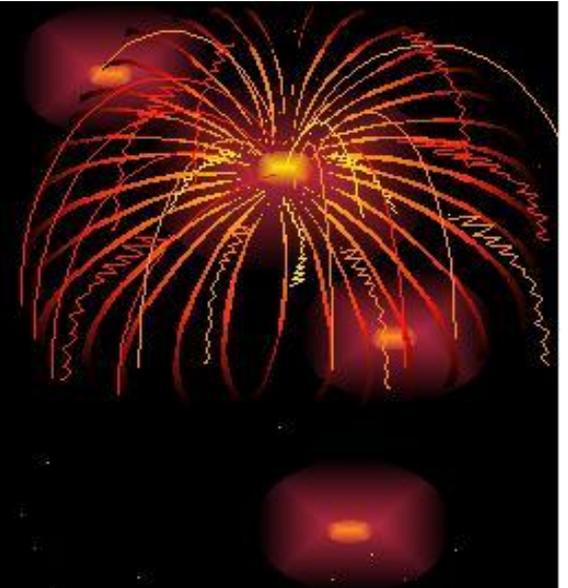
Superstitions in Senegal

- In Senegal, you shouldn't tell your travel plan to anyone at all. If you do, that plan will have obstacles that prevent you from going.



Match the pairs

1. Never walk
2. Breaking a mirror
3. Black cats are
4. Finding a four-leaf clover
5. We knock on wood



- lucky
- means good luck
- to make something come true
- gives 7 years of bad luck
- under ladders



Conclusion

Superstitions play some roles in people's life and people still believe in good luck and bad luck. Despite the fact that Russian culture is very diverse to English one and the countries have passed different historical paths, many omens and superstitions match. But at the same time, there are some differences between them. Knowledge of all these similarities and differences raises students' interest in culture, folklore, traditions of Russia and Great Britain, helps to understand a country and its history better, enrich own outlook.



Do you know these superstitions?

To touch wood



To kill a spider



To keep your fingers crossed

To cut hair when the Moon is waning

To see magpies

To find lilac with 5 petals



Thank you for watching

