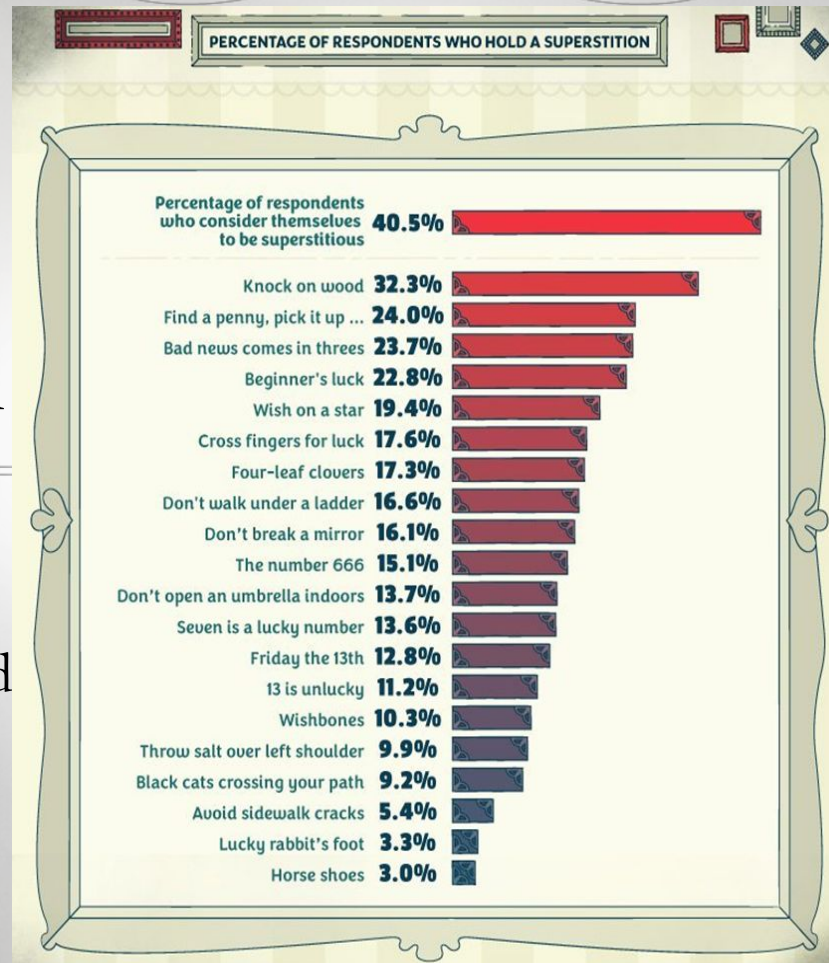




AMERICAN SUPERSTITIONS

**What Is
the Most Popular
Superstition?**

Researchers found the most common superstitions in the US, breaking them down by gender, age and part of the country.



They surveyed over 2,000 people and found that about 40% would consider themselves superstitious.

I Believe in 

***Knocking
On Wood***

The top superstition? Knocking on wood.
Apparently, 32.3% do this.

This practice to avoid bad luck has its root in pagan traditions, where people believed helpful spirits resided inside certain trees. So if you touched that tree, you'd be asking the spirit for protection.

❖ Other top superstitions involved wishing on stars, crossing fingers for luck and seeking out four-leaf clovers.

❖ Interestingly, some of the bad omens relate to numerology, with 3, 666, and 13 being particularly worrisome.

The parts of the leaf represent four parts of life:

fame, wealth, love and health.

The owner of the clover will have good fortune in all four of them.



Other superstitions are

- ❖ Bad news comes in threes
- ❖ Finding any money is lucky
- ❖ Beginner's luck



❖ Wishing on a wishbone (collarbone).

A person would make a wish. Whoever received the larger piece of the collarbone got a sign that the gods heard him or her.



❖ Saying “bless you” when someone sneezes

It was believed that evil spirits could enter a person’s body when they sneezed.

By saying “bless you,” a person bestows blessings

on the sneezer that ward off the evil spirits.



Black cats are a potential hazard to 9.2% of the surveyed group, but we know the real number is much higher.



People believe that a black cat crossing your path is bad luck because it might be a witch.

Opening umbrellas indoors will bring bad luck to anyone who lives in the house. Don't open an umbrella inside

It's not clear where this came from but it could be that earlier umbrellas could catch and injure a finger.





According to traditional belief,
walking under a ladder brings bad luck,
for example destroys the wholeness of the family.

The Evil Eye



There is an ancient belief that some people have the power to harm another's health or happiness simply by looking at them.



**Leap
Year**

Leap year is the year when February has 29 days and it is believed to be a lucky time to begin new projects.



**The groom must not
see the bride before
the wedding**

There is the custom that the groom must not see his bride before the ceremony. To do so would be a sign of submission to her family.

THE TOP SUPERSTITIONS BY GENDER

Men



1 Beginner's luck



2 Knock on wood



3 Find a penny, pick it up ...



4 Bad news comes in threes



5 Seven is a lucky number



6 Don't walk under a ladder



7 The number 666



8 Cross fingers for luck



9 Wish on a star



10 Four-leaf clovers

Women



1 Knock on wood



2 Bad news comes in threes



3 Find a penny, pick it up ...



4 Wish on a star



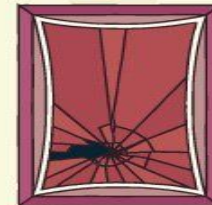
5 Cross fingers for luck



6 Four-leaf clovers



7 Beginner's luck



8 Don't break a mirror



9 Don't walk under a ladder



10 The number 666



GOOD LUCK!