

# SUPERSTITIONS

AROUND THE WORLD

# Lucky Number Seven



- Islam has seven holy temples. The Hebrew Bible says the world was created in seven days. The Christian New Testament describes the end of the world with seven plagues (deadly diseases) and seven angels.
- You will sometimes hear English speakers talk about “all the way to seventh heaven.” That means the highest level of good fortune or good life.
- Gamblers consider seven to be very lucky if they are playing on slot machines (a casino game). Three sevens in row means a blackjack (21) and a big money win. “Luck of the draw” means that your good luck comes from chance, not any skill.
- Card players sometimes talk about “Lady Luck,” a symbol of games going well for them. She is always pictured with dice-shaped earrings showing the number seven.

# Four-leaf Clover



- Leprechauns are said to be **“looking for a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.”** That phrase is where idioms such as **“chasing the rainbow”** and **“pot of gold”** come from. They’re about hoping for a better life, sometimes unrealistically.
- You also will hear about **“the luck of the Irish.”** That is an old superstition that Irish people have more luck than others, partly because they have one of the most popular symbols of luck: the four-leaf clover.

# Horseshoe



- Horseshoes are made of iron, and there are many superstitions about that metal. Iron is super strong and can withstand fire.
- Even the blacksmiths who make the horseshoes are considered magical because they bend iron with fire. In ancient times, blacksmiths performed wedding ceremonies because they were thought to bring the bride and groom good luck.
- A popular blacksmith idiom is “**Strike while the iron is hot.**” That means take your chance while you have the opportunity because you don’t know if your luck will be good later. Iron can only be bent while it is hot, not after it has cooled.

# A lucky bride





- A bride who is marrying a wealthy (rich) man is said to be “sitting pretty.” She has time to relax and make herself beautiful.
- Brides in the West have this saying: “Wear something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.” That means wear something old to represent the past, something new to represent the future, something borrowed to represent happiness, and something blue to show love and purity.
- Rain can bring good or bad luck on a wedding day, depending on the tradition. Another saying is “Happy is the bride whom the sun shines upon.”
- Here’s a great story or “old wives” tale: People in the southern United States sometimes bury a bottle of bourbon a month before the wedding to prevent rain and bring good luck. “To bury the bourbon” means to do something to make your luck better.

If you sleep on a table,  
you will have bad luck

If you put the sugar into the  
cup first, before the tea, you  
will have good luck

You get whatever you want if  
you will blow all the candles on  
your birthday cake in one blow.

If you throw rice on a new bride  
and groom, they will have many  
children.

If an owl hoots in your  
garden, it will bring you  
bad luck

If you catch a falling leaf on  
the first day of autumn, you  
will have good luck all  
winter.

If you get down your purse on the floor,  
you will lose money





If you open and close the scissors and  
you don't cut something,  
You will have bad luck!!



If a man eats lettuce,  
he won't have children



If you whistle inside the room,  
the demons will follow you at night

