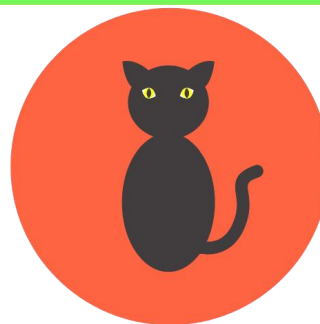


## Lesson 2

## Superstitions

- *Are you superstitious? Why or why not?*
- *What is the difference between superstition and science?*
- *Do you believe in witches?*
- *Do you believe in ghosts?*
- *Have you ever seen a ghost?*
- *Do you usually have good luck or bad luck?*


**Read about some common Western superstitions.**

These are some common Western superstitions. Many of them originated during a time when there were no scientific explanations for events that happened. People used to believe in witches, magic, dragons, and fairies. There are still people who continue to believe in superstitions and live their lives according to these beliefs.

Superstition	Meaning
Baseball Bat	Spit on a new bat when using it for the first time to make it lucky.
Bed	It's bad luck to put a hat on a bed.
Bell	When a bell rings, an angel has received its wings.
Cats	If a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck.
Clover	It's good luck to find a four-leaf clover.
Knives	If a friend gives you a knife, you should give him/her a coin.
Ladybugs	It is bad luck to kill a ladybug.
Ladder	It's bad luck to walk under a ladder.
Mirror	If you break a mirror, it's seven years bad luck.
Salt	If you spill salt you must throw some over your left shoulder.
Umbrella	It's bad luck to open an umbrella in the house.
Wood	Knock on wood anytime you mention good fortune.
Yawn	Cover your mouth so your soul doesn't go out of your body.
Itchy Ear	Someone is talking about you.
Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup>	This day is traditionally unlucky unless you were born on it.

1. What should you do to a bat to make it lucky?
2. What shouldn't you put on a bed?
3. How can cats be unlucky?
4. What kind of clover is good luck?
5. If a friend gives you a knife, what should you give in return?
6. How can ladders be unlucky?
7. How can ladybugs be unlucky?
8. What can give you seven years bad luck?
9. If you spill salt, what should you do?
10. How can umbrellas be unlucky?
11. When should you knock on wood?
12. What should you do when you yawn?
13. What does an itchy ear mean?
14. How can Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> be lucky?



1. How do you feel about superstitions? Why? Are you superstitious?
2. Are you religious? Do you believe in a god?
3. What is your family's religion? What religious things do you and your family do?
4. Why do you think people continue to believe in superstitions?
5. Do you know anyone who is very superstitious?
6. Do you know anyone who is very religious?
7. Have you ever met anyone who has seen a ghost? Where did they see it?
  
8. What numbers are lucky in your country? Why?
9. What numbers are unlucky in your country? Why?
10. Do you have a lucky number? What number? Why is this your lucky number?
11. What lucky things have happened to you recently?
12. What unlucky things have happened to you recently?
13. In some western countries a rabbit's foot or a horseshoe is considered to be a lucky charm. What things are considered to be lucky charms in your country?
14. Do you carry a lucky charm? What do you do if you want to have good luck?
  
15. Make a list of some common superstitions in your country. Try to explain where they came from and why people believe in them. Include lucky and unlucky things.

Superstition	Meaning