

# Vocabulary: Superstition

## Nouns

Superstition  
Charm  
Misfortune  
Belief  
Folklore  
Jinx  
Omen  
Luck  
Magic

## Adjectives

Superstitious  
Gullible  
Lucky  
Magical

## Verb Expressions

Make a wish  
Hope for the best

**Superstition:** a belief or way of behaving that is based on fear of the unknown and faith in magic or luck : a belief that certain events or things will bring good or bad luck

**Charm:** something that is believed to have magic powers and especially to prevent bad luck

**Misfortune:** bad luck

**Belief:** a feeling of being sure that someone or something exists or that something is true

**Folklore:** traditional customs, beliefs, stories, and sayings

**Jinx:** someone or something that causes bad luck

**Omen:** something that is believed to be a sign or warning of something that will happen in the future

**Luck:** the things that happen to a person because of chance : the accidental way things happen without being planned

**Magic:** a power that allows people (such as witches and wizards) to do impossible things by saying special words or performing special actions

**Gullible:** easily fooled or cheated; *especially* : quick to believe something that is not true

# Idioms

## **Knock on wood**

This idiom is used to wish for good luck.

## **Break a leg**

Good luck!

## **Beginner's luck**

absolute luck; the luck of an inexperienced person.

## **Kick the bucket**

Dying or dead

## **Stroke of luck**

a bit of luck; a lucky happening

## **Crack a joke**

To tell a joke

## **Inside Joke**

a joke only certain people understand

## **No joke**

A serious matter

# Common American Superstitions

## **Common Superstitions:**

Friday the thirteenth is an unlucky day

A rabbit's foot brings good luck

An apple a day keeps the doctor away

To find a four-leaf clover is to find good luck

If you walk under a ladder, you will have bad luck

If a black cat crosses your path you will have bad luck

To break a mirror will bring you seven years bad luck

To open an umbrella in the house is to bring bad luck

Garlic protects from evil spirits and vampires

At the end of a rainbow is a pot of gold

If you blow out all of the candles on your birthday cake with the first breath you will get whatever you wish for

A cat has nine lives

Toads cause warts

To find a penny heads up, brings good luck

To make a happy marriage, the bride must wear: something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

To give someone a purse or wallet without money in it will bring that person bad luck

It is good luck to toss a pinch of salt over ones shoulder