

ENGLISH SUPERSTITIONS AND MEANS OF EXPRESSING THEM

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**Annotatsiya.** *Ushbu maqola Ingliz xalqida mansub irim va xurofotlar, hamda insonlar orasida keng tarqalgan xurofot buyumlari, ular keltirishi mumkin deb hisoblangan oqibatlar, omad, ko'ngilsizlik, baxtsizlik, boylik, sog'liq va boshqa bir qator hodisalar haqida fikr bildiriladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar.** *Irim, xurofot, noodatiy kuch, omad, baxt, baxtsizlik.*

**Annotation.** *This article gives an opinion about superstitions belonging to the English people, as well as common superstition items among people, the consequences which they may bring as luck, disappointment, misfortune, wealth, health and a number of other events.*

**Key words.** *superstition, unusual power, luck, happiness, misfortune.*

**Аннотация.** *В данной статье дается мнение о суевериях, принадлежащих английскому народу, а также о распространенных среди людей суевериях, о последствиях, которые они могут принести в виде удачи, разочарования, несчастья, богатства, здоровья и ряда других событий.*

**Ключевые слова.** *суеверие, необычная сила, удача, счастье, несчастье.*

Superstitions are customs and superstitions caused by belief in and worship of supernatural forces such as giants and fairies. Superstition occurs as a result of a person having a wrong idea about the nature and society, the secrets of human thinking, objects and events, or not at all. Superstition has an individual and social form, and they are a complex of various vices. they are formed in a mixed manner with existing customs in national, cultural, spiritual, and domestic life. The origin, development and duration of superstition can be caused by various means. However, under these tools lie defects such as lack of understanding of existence, ignorance, heresy.

Different nations have different customs, various traditions and belief to the superstitions, as well as English people.

We want to mention some items which people believe that they have extraordinary power. As they think, these things have connection with superstitions, and if they don't pay attention them, they will cause some

misfortune, bad luck. But there are some means which may bring luck, happiness.

Despite the fact that many scientists approve, people sometimes believe and even practice superstitions without realizing it. But science has repeatedly emphasized that superstitions are just fiction and unproven facts.

As in Collins English Dictionary written superstitions “irrational beliefs, especially with regard to the unknown”<sup>39</sup>.

A superstition is a belief that is often irrational and based on the supernatural and considered to bring a person good or bad luck. They often centre around the idea that one thing causes another thing to happen, without any scientific evidence to prove or support this<sup>40</sup>.

But people mostly ignore this opinion and continue living with superstitions. We will see some examples:

### MEANS OF GOOD LUCK

- Meeting black cat means luck, that's why they are featured on many good luck greetings cards and birthday cards in England<sup>41</sup>.

- Touching wood. When people want to their dreams come true and happen, they knock the wood or just touch it.

- Finding a **clover plant with four leaves**. As English people think it is also means of happiness.

- A horseshoe. Hanging the horseshoe over the door brings good luck to the family and its members, that's why British people use its picture in good luck cards.

- White rabbit. Saying “white rabbit” three times in the first day of the month may bring luck to the person.

- Falling leaves. Catching falling leaves in Autumn means catching your luck. As English believe, how many leaves one can catch, so many month he will be lucky.

- Money. When people buy new clothes, they put money to its pocket, as it brings luck and wealth to its owner.

### MEANS OF BAD LUCK

Ladder. Walking underneath the ladder may cause to unlucky.

Break a mirror. Breaking mirror bring seven years bad luck. It was originated from ancient times as people thought mirrors were the tools of gods.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/superstition>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.british-study.com/en/blog/wonderfully-weird-british-superstitions>

<sup>41</sup> <http://projectbritain.com/superstitions.htm>

- Spilling the salt. If one suddenly spill the salt, one should throw it over from one's shoulder to counteract the bad luck.
- Umbrella. British people consider that opening an umbrella in doors may cause to bad luck.
- Thirteen. The number thirteen is considered unlucky number, that's why people try not to buy something with this number.
- Shoes. Putting new shoes on the table means unlucky.

### FOOD SUPERSTITIONS

- Boiled egg. When British people finish eating a boiled egg, they push the spoon through the bottom of the empty shell to let the devil out.
- In Yorkshire, housewives used to believe that bread would not rise if there was a corpse (dead body) in the vicinity, and to cut off both ends of the loaf would make the Devil fly over the house!<sup>42</sup>

### TABLE SUPERSTITIONS

- Dropping knife/fork. If one drops a knife, a male visitor may come to his house. If someone drops a fork, he should expect a female guest.
- A white tablecloth. Leaving a white tablecloth overnight may cause to death of someone in the family.

### ANIMAL SUPERSTITIONS

- Ravens. Meeting several ravens together is accepted as bad luck in some parts of the UK.
- Bats. If someone sees flying bats, it is the sign of bad luck. Even hearing its noise is believed the means of misfortune. Because in middle ages, they were associated with witches.
- Sparrow. If a sparrow enters inside the house, it means that someone who lives there will die, that's why if it happens, British people immediately catch and kill it.
- Rabbit. Rabbits are accepted differently in various places. As in some cities they are the sigh of luck, but in some places they are thought that they are connected with witches.
- Peacock feather. Having something in the house with peacock feather may bring unlucky. For that reason people prefer not to buy something with their feather. This is possibly because of the feather with eye shape which present the Evil-Eye associated with wickedness.

### WEDDING SUPERSTITIONS

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<sup>42</sup> Ko'rsatilgan manba.

- According to British traditions, before coming to church bride and groom must not see each other on the day of the wedding. They should meet only at the altar.

- One of the wedding superstition is connected with wedding clothes. The bride should never wear her complete wedding clothes before wedding day. If she wears, it brings misfortune to new family.

- As English people think for being happy and lucky the bride should wear “something borrowed, something blue, something old and something new”.

- One of the most famous superstition with wedding day is carrying bride over the threshold of their home. The husband should carry his new wife on the first day of their marriage.

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