



Полезная лексика по теме
**«Видеоразбор: зачем 13
черных котов стучат по
дереву?»»**

Are you afraid of black cats? Would you open an umbrella indoors? And how do you feel about the number thirteen? Whether or not you believe in them, you're probably **familiar** with **a few** of these **superstitions**. So how did it happen that people all over the world **knock** on wood, or **avoid stepping** on **sidewalk cracks**?

Well, **although** they have no basis in **science**, many of these **weirdly specific beliefs** and practices do have **equally** weird and specific **origins**. Because they **involve supernatural causes**, it's no surprise that many superstitions are based in religion.

familiar — знакомый, известный

a few — несколько, некоторые

a superstition — суеверие

to knock — стучать

to avoid — избегать

to step — ступать, шагать

a sidewalk — тротуар

a crack — трещина

although — хотя, несмотря на

science — наука

weirdly — причудливо, необычно

specific — определенный

a belief — поверье

equally — в равной степени

origins — корни, истоки

to involve — подразумевать, влечь за собой

supernatural — сверхъестественный

a cause — причина



For example, the number thirteen **was associated** with the **biblical Last Supper**, where **Jesus Christ** dined with his twelve **disciples** just before being arrested and **crucified**. The **resulting** idea that having thirteen people at a table was **bad luck eventually expanded** into thirteen being an **unlucky** number in general. Now, this **fear** of the number thirteen, called **triskaidekaphobia**, is so **common** that many buildings around the world **skip** the thirteenth floor, with the numbers going **straight** from twelve to fourteen.

Of course, many people **consider** the story of the Last Supper to be true but other superstitions come from religious traditions that **few** people believe in or even remember. Knocking on wood is thought to come from the **folklore** of the **ancient** Indo-Europeans or possibly people who **predated** them who believed that trees were home to **various spirits**. Touching a tree would **invoke** the protection or **blessing** of the spirit within. And somehow, this tradition **survived** long after belief in these spirits had **faded away**.

to be associated — ассоциироваться, быть тесно связанным

biblical — библейский

the Last Supper — Тайная Вечеря

Jesus Christ — Иисус Христос

a disciple — апостол, ученик

to crucify — распять

resulting — вытекающий из этого

bad luck — плохая примета, дурной знак

eventually — в итоге, в результате

to expand — развиться

unlucky — несчастливый, злополучный

fear — страх

triskaidekaphobia /ˌtrɪsklaɪdɛkəˈfəʊbiə/ — боязнь числа тринадцать

common — распространенный

to skip — пропускать

straight — прямо

to consider — считать, полагать

few — мало, немного

folklore — фольклор

ancient — древний

to predate — существовать ранее, предшествовать

various — различный

a spirit — дух

to invoke — вызвать

blessing — благословение

to survive — выжить, пережить

to fade away — постепенно исчезнуть, сойти на нет



<p>Many superstitions common today in countries from Russia to Ireland are thought to be remnants of the pagan religions that Christianity replaced. But not all superstitions are religious. Some are just based on unfortunate coincidences and associations.</p> <p>For example, many Italians fear the number 17 because the Roman numeral XVII can be rearranged to form the word “vixi”, meaning “my life had ended”. Similarly, the word for the number four sounds almost identical to the word for death in Cantonese, as well as languages like Japanese and Korean that have borrowed Chinese numerals. And since the number one also sounds like the word for must, the number fourteen sounds like the phrase must die. That's a lot of numbers for elevators and international hotels to avoid.</p> <p>And believe it or not, some superstitions actually make sense, or at least they did until we forgot their original purpose. For example, theater scenery used to consist of large painted backdrops, raised and lowered by stagehands who would whistle to signal each other. Absent-minded whistles from other people could cause an accident. But the taboo against whistling backstage still exists today, long after the stagehands started using radio headsets.</p>	<p>a remnant — пережиток pagan — языческий to replace — заменить, вытеснить unfortunate — неудачный, злосчастный a coincidence — совпадение, стечение обстоятельств Roman — римский a numeral — число to rearrange — перегруппировать, поменять местами similarly — подобным образом, аналогично Cantonese — кантонский (диалект китайского языка) to borrow — заимствовать an elevator — лифт to make sense — иметь смысл, быть логичным a purpose — цель, замысел scenery — декорации a backdrop — задний фон to raise — поднимать to lower — опускать a stagehand — рабочий сцены to whistle — свистеть absent-minded — рассеянный to cause — стать причиной, спровоцировать an accident — несчастный случай a taboo — запрет backstage — за кулисами, за сценой a radio headset — радиогарнитура</p>
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Along the same lines, lighting three cigarettes from the same **match** really could cause bad luck if you were a soldier in a **foxhole** where keeping a match lit too long could **draw attention** from an **enemy sniper**. Most **smokers** no longer have to **worry** about snipers, but the superstition **lives on**.

So why do people **cling** to these **bits** of forgotten religions, coincidences, and **outdated advice**? Aren't they being totally **irrational**? Well, yes, but for many people, superstitions are based more on cultural **habit** than **conscious belief**. After all, no one is born knowing to avoid walking under **ladders** or whistling indoors, but if you **grow up** being told by your family to avoid these things, chances are they'll make you uncomfortable, even after you logically understand that nothing bad will happen. And since doing something like knocking on wood doesn't **require** much **effort**, **following** the superstition is often easier than consciously **resisting** it.

along the same lines — так же, аналогично, по той же схеме

a match — спичка

a foxhole — окоп

to draw attention — привлечь внимание

an enemy — враг

a sniper — снайпер, стрелок

a smoker — курильщик

to worry — беспокоиться

to live on — продолжать существовать

to cling — цепляться, придерживаться

bits — крупички, остатки

outdated — устаревший, запоздалый

advice — совет

irrational — нерациональный, нелогичный

a habit — обычай, привычка

conscious belief — сознательное убеждение, вера

a ladder — лестница

to grow up — расти

to require — требовать

an effort — усилие

to follow — следовать

to resist — сопротивляться



Besides, superstitions often do **seem** to work. Maybe you remember **hitting a home run** while **wearing** your lucky socks. This is just our **psychological bias at work**. You're far less likely to remember all the times you **struck out** while wearing the **same** socks. But believing that they work could **actually** make you play better by giving you the illusion of having greater control over events. So in situations where that **confidence** can **make a difference**, like sports, those crazy superstitions might not be so crazy after all.

besides — кроме того, вдобавок к тому
to seem — казаться
to hit a home run — произвести сильный и точный удар битой по мячу (термин из бейсбола)
to wear — носить
psychological bias — психологическая установка
at work — в действии
struck out (от to strike out) — промазать в трех подачах мяча подряд (термин из бейсбола)
same — тот же самый
actually — действительно, на самом деле
confidence — уверенность
to make a difference — изменить ситуацию, сыграть роль