



National
Foundation
Center

GLOSSARY FOR THE LESSON 4





CLOSSARY FOR THE LESSON 4

superstition (noun) – a belief or way of behaving that is based on the fear of the unknown;

unlucky (adj) – having bad luck;

belief (noun) – something that a person accepts as true or right;

fact (noun) – something that truly exists or happens;

fear (noun) – an unpleasant emotion caused by being aware of danger;

ritual (noun) – a formal ceremony that is always performed in the same way;

evil (adj) – morally bad;

cross your fingers (PHRASE) – to put your middle finger over your first finger as a wish for good luck;

fingers crossed (PHRASE) – used for saying that you hope something goes well or has a good result;

four-leaved clover (NOUN) – a leaf from a clover plant that has four parts instead of the usual three, that is believed to bring good luck;

touch wood (PHRASE) – used when you have said that you have had good luck in order to prevent bad luck from happening to you. People sometimes touch something made of wood when they say this.



There are also some superstitions for different objects or things, which mean the following:

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 13th – This day is traditionally unlucky unless you were born on it.

