

#16 英文

Superstition (迷信)& Taboo (禁忌)

Superstition 和 taboo 是一個很容易讀的字，把 Superstition 分成以下三個部分：‘Super / sti / tion’即可。而 taboo 則可分成 ‘ta / boo’ 來讀。

我們常常說中國人迷信。其實在英國的文化中，迷信和禁忌的事物也有很多；以下舉出些少英國文化中常見的 Superstitions (迷信)及 Taboos(禁忌)。

Good Luck 帶來好事的迷信

1. Lucky to meet a **black cat**. (見到黑貓)
2. Lucky to **touch wood**. We touch; knock on wood, to make something come true. (觸摸木材)
3. Lucky to find a **clover plant with four leaves**. (有四片葉的三葉草)
4. **White heather** is lucky. (白色石南)
5. A **horseshoe** over the door brings good luck. But the horse shoe needs to be the right way up. The luck runs out of the horse shoe if it is upside down. (馬蹄鐵)
6. On the first day of the month it is lucky to say "**white rabbits, white rabbits white rabbits**," before uttering your first word of the day. (說三次“白兔子”)
7. **Catch falling leaves in Autumn** and you're have good luck. Every leaf means a lucky month next year. (捕捉秋葉)
8. Cut your **hair** when the moon is wax and you will have good luck. (滿月時剪髮)
9. Putting money in the pocket of new clothes brings good luck. (在新衣物裡放錢)

以上的黑貓、四片葉的三葉草、馬蹄鐵、秋葉等等物件的都可以在各種祝賀咭見到。我們更常常聽到 touch wood 來表示不想有不幸的語意。

Bad Luck 帶來不幸的迷信

1. Unlucky to walk underneath a **ladder**. (在梯子下走過會帶來不幸。)
2. Seven years bad luck to **break a mirror**. (打破鏡子會帶來七年不幸。)
3. Unlucky to **see one magpie**, lucky to see two, etc. (見到一隻鵲會帶來不幸，見到一雙則幸運。)
4. Unlucky to **spill salt**. If you do, you must throw it over your shoulder to counteract the bad luck. (潑出鹽會帶來不幸。否則，應將鹽潑過肩膊以抵消不幸。)
5. Unlucky to **open an umbrella in doors**. (室內開傘子會帶來不幸。)
6. The **number thirteen** is unlucky. **It is unlucky to have thirteen at a table or in a company**. (數字 13 會帶來不幸；例如 13 人一起吃飯或走在一起。)
7. **Friday the thirteenth** is a very unlucky day. Unlucky to put **new shoes on the table**. (假如某月份的星期五剛好是 13 號的話，這被稱為“黑色星期五”，會帶來不幸。在桌子上放新鞋會帶來不幸。)
8. **Crossed knives** at the table signify a quarrel, while a **white tablecloth left on a table overnight** means the household will need a shroud in the near future. (把餐刀交叉放會引起吵架；整夜把白色餐巾放在餐桌上暗示主人家即將有白事)

Why are people superstitious of the number 13? 為甚麼人們會對數字 13 迷信？

- A witches coven consists of 13 members. (女巫大聚會有 13 人。)
- Tarot Card number 13 is the Death Card, depicting the Grim Reaper (塔羅牌第 13 張咭是死亡咭。)
- Hotels rarely have a room number 13. (酒店甚少有 13 號房。)
- There are 13 steps leading to the gallows. (絞刑架有 13 級。)

註：1. 有關更多「上網問功課」教材，可登入香港電「上網問功課」(<http://tol.eTVonline.tv>)

2. 版權歸香港電台所有，本教案只提供教育用途，如有任何查詢，可聯絡我們(info@eTVonline.tv)

#16 英文

- 13 knots in a hangman's noose. (絞索有 13 個結。)
- 13 feet which the guillotine blade falls. (絞刑刀和有絞刑架底部有 13 尺的距離。)
- The driver of Princess Diana hit pillar 13 at Place de l'Alma, Paris, France which unfortunately resulted in her death. (據悉，當年威爾斯王妃黛安娜的司機因撞到法國巴黎阿爾瑪橋的第 13 條柱子而發生車禍。)

有趣的是 The Last Supper 的畫中剛巧也有 13 人呢!

