

## Superstitions – Glossary

**affect** verb [transitive]

to change or influence something. If something affects something else, it has an effect on it.

**base on** phrasal verb [transitive, usually passive]  
to use particular ideas or facts to make a decision, do a calculation, or develop a theory

*The prosecution's case is based largely on evidence from ex-members of the gang.*

**buck** noun [count]

INFORMAL a dollar

*You can get the batteries for a few bucks at any drugstore.*

**crack** noun [count]

a line on a surface where something is beginning to break apart

*Many old buildings have cracks in their walls.*

**dude** noun [count]

VERY INFORMAL a man

**freak (out)** verb phrase [intransitive/transitive]

INFORMAL if you are freaked out or if something freaks you out, you become so angry, surprised, excited, or frightened that you cannot control yourself

*Meeting my dad again after all these years really freaked me out.*

**hilarious** adjective

extremely funny

*For some reason, she finds his jokes hilarious.*

**horseshoe** noun [count]

a curved piece of iron fastened to the bottom of a horse's hoof (the hard part of a horse's foot)

**(just) in case** phrase

in order to be prepared for something that may happen

*I'll make some sandwiches, just in case we get hungry later.*

**ladder** noun [count]

a piece of equipment for reaching high places that consists of two long pieces of wood or metal joined by smaller pieces called rungs

*A fireman climbed the ladder.*

**metal detector** noun [count]

equipment used especially at airports for checking whether someone is carrying something such as a weapon

**mother-in-law** noun [count]

the mother of your husband or wife

**mystery** noun [count]

something that you are not able to understand, explain, or get information about

**penny** noun [count]

a small coin in the US or Canada worth one cent (one-hundredth of a dollar)

**performance** noun [count/uncount]

the standard to which someone does something such as a job or an examination

**pick out** phrasal verb [transitive]

to choose one thing or person from a group  
*Have you picked out a dress for the party?*

**pick up** phrasal verb [transitive]

to lift someone or something up from a surface  
*He picked the phone up as soon as it rang.*

**rational** adjective

based on sensible practical reasons instead of emotions

*There didn't seem to be any rational explanation for his actions.*

**sidewalk** noun [count]

an area along the side of a street that has a hard surface, used by people who are walking

**spit** verb [intransitive]

to force some of the clear liquid called saliva out from your mouth

*Dino leaned over and spat on the ground.*

**spot** verb [transitive]

to notice someone or something

**stand** noun [count]

a part of a sports stadium where people sit or stand to watch a game or event

**superstition** noun [count/uncount]  
a belief that things such as magic or luck have the power to affect your life

**superstitious** adjective  
believing in the power of magic or luck  
*She's a very superstitious person.*

**turn back** phrasal verb [intransitive/transitive]  
to return the same way that you came instead of continuing on your journey, or make someone do this

**you can say that again** phrase  
SPOKEN used for expressing strong agreement with what someone has said  
*"This is so boring!" "You can say that again!"*

