

## Friday the 13th

Good morning UNAN, today is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. My name is Alex Hall and this is the morning speech.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is a bit of a special day to people in the UK. Some people say it is an unlucky day. They think bad things are more likely to happen to them on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> than on a normal day. This is a superstition.

A superstition is a belief that certain things or actions are lucky or unlucky.

Lots of countries have lots of different superstitions. For example, in Japan, it is said that the number 4 can bring bad luck because it is pronounced the same way as the word death. Sometimes, buildings will not even have a 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

A very common superstition, in the UK, is that it is bad luck to break a mirror. People say that, if you break a mirror, you will have 7 years of bad luck.

Another superstition is that you should never walk under a ladder. A lot of British people will cross the street rather than walk under a ladder.

There are a lot of superstitions about bad luck but there are some for good luck as well. If you want to make sure something good happens, you have to “knock on wood” or “touch wood”. You say what good thing you want to happen and then tap on something wooden twice, like this... “All the students are going to speak perfect English, touch wood” (knock knock). Give it a try next time you want something to happen.

What do you think? Do you have any superstitions?

