

STRANGE BUT TRUE



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Preface

The primary goal of the current educational system is to mould a productive citizen and a caring family member who is equipped with knowledge and skills. The main responsibility of the school is to identify and recognize children's talents, as well as to sharpen their skills to meet the needs of the nation and the world.

Our Alma Mater is constantly guiding and assisting children who are creative. This project has been an ongoing process at our school for many years, particularly in terms of writing books. Many skilled and enthusiastic young writers participated in this exercise for years, producing novice writers to field of literature. We regard this as a great victory and a national need at this hour.

To continue this effort, we have adopted digital technologies and an e-book project this year. I am confident that this unique event provided youngsters with valuable experience and challenges that will benefit them in the future.

The Ministry of Education has hailed the project as an important step toward motivating young authors in schools. As principal of Mahamaya Girls' College, I am grateful to all of the students throughout the country who contributed to this endeavour. I commend and applaud all of the young authors of these-books for their perseverance and devotion in this difficult task.

I would like to thank our school management committee, employees, parents, for my students, administrators, and teachers from other schools who encouraged students to take part in this worthwhile effort.

Ms. Shashikala Senadheera
Principal
Mahamaya Girls' College - Kandy
2023 . 11 . 10

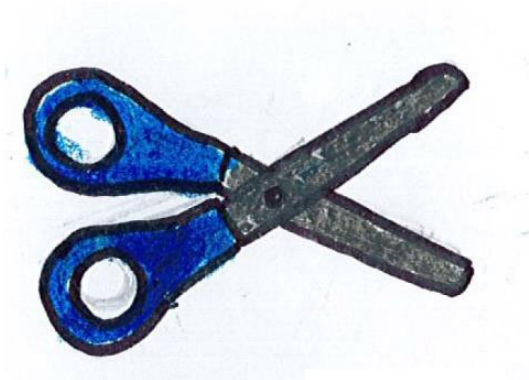
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01. Egypt

It's bad luck to open and close scissors without cutting anything. It's considered even unluckier to leave them open.

Owls are said to bring bad luck to the first person that sees or hears it.



02. China

Bats, also pronounced as 'fook' means prosperity and the ones nesting in people's homes are thought to bring wealth. **Bats have prominence in feng shui as well.**

The number 4 is incredibly unlucky. The Chinese pronunciation of the number is nearly identical to the word 'death'.



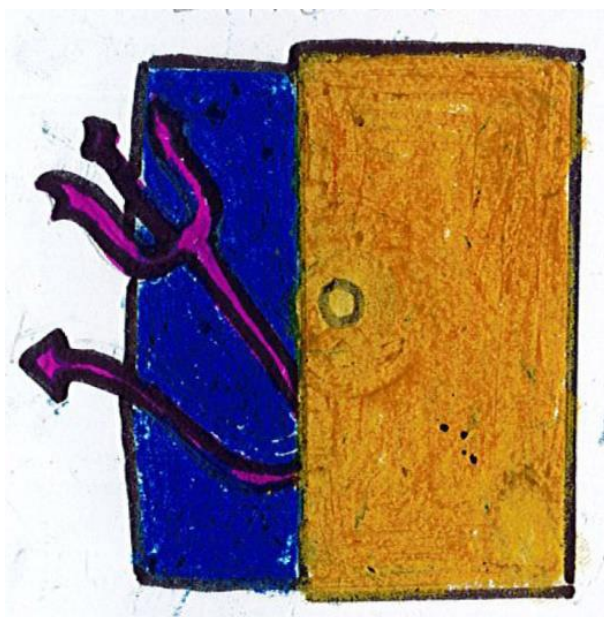
03. France

Stepping in dog poo with your left foot is lucky, but stepping in it with your right foot is unlucky.



04. Lithuania

Whistling indoors is thought to summon devils, hell bent on terrorizing you.



05. Japan

If you walk past a graveyard, you must 'tuck your thumbs' to protect your parents from death.

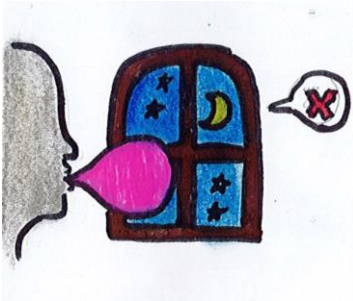
Counting is full of problems in Japan! Many people **fear** the number four, because it's pronounced the same way as the word for death. People won't give gifts in groups of four (for example, four flowers) and there's often no fourth floor in apartment blocks. The number nine is also unlucky, as it's pronounced the same as the word for pain.



06. Turkey

The Turkish avoid chewing gum at night, as it's believed that after dark, the gum will turn into the flesh of dead people.

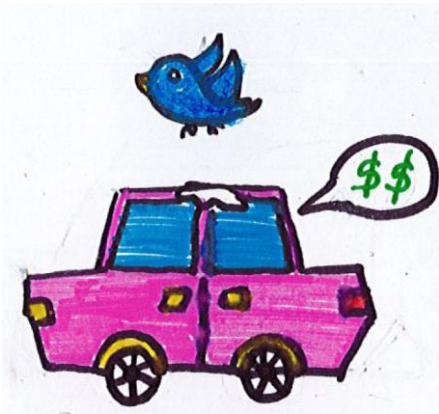
A common Turkish **belief** is that giving someone a pair of scissors will **bring bad luck**. They think you'll fight or become enemies with the person who gives them to you. To stop this happening, it's better to put the scissors on the table for the other person to pick up.



07. Russia

Bird poo on your car, yourself or your property will bring you riches.

Gifting yellow flowers is considered to be a relationship curse as they symbolize infidelity.



08. Spain

In many countries, Friday the 13th is thought to be an unlucky day. In Spain, however, it's Tuesday the 13th. An old saying is: On Tuesday, don't get married, go on a journey or move house.

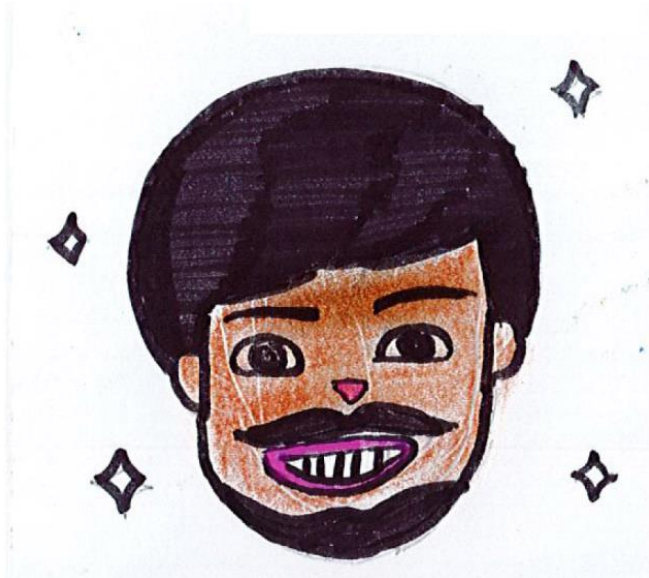
It's considered bad luck to enter a room with your left foot.



09. Rwanda

Women avoid eating goat's meat because they believe if they do, it will cause them to grow facial hair.

Women in Rwanda **are worried** that if they eat goat meat, they'll grow hair on their face and have a beard like a goat!



10. Brazil

Dropping your purse/wallet on the floor means that you will become poor.

It's considered bad luck to enter a room with your left foot.

At New Year in Brazil, people think that the color you wear will decide your **fate**. Everyone wears a white dress or shirt for peace, but underneath, people wear special colors: yellow for money, green for good health and pink to find love.

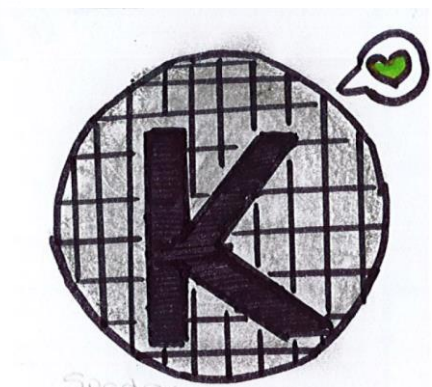
Putting new shoes on the table is very unlucky. Breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck. It's lucky if a black cat walks in front of you. You can hang a horseshoe above the window to bring good luck. Opening an umbrella inside the house is supposed to be unlucky.



11. Sweden

Stepping on a manhole marked with K stands for love, but stepping on a manhole marked with a will bring bad luck and heart break.

Swedish people don't **believe** in killing spiders. They think that if you do, it'll rain the next day.



12. Portugal

It's bad luck to walk backwards as it's believed to teach the devil your path.



13. Nigeria

It's considered bad luck to kiss a baby on the lips.



14. Netherlands

If you sing at the dinner table, it is thought that you are singing to the devil.



15. Serbia

Spill Some Water

Serbians believe that spilling water symbolizes mobility and that spilling water behind somebody before travel will bring good fortune and a safe journey.

Spilling water behind someone is said to bring good luck.



16. Korea

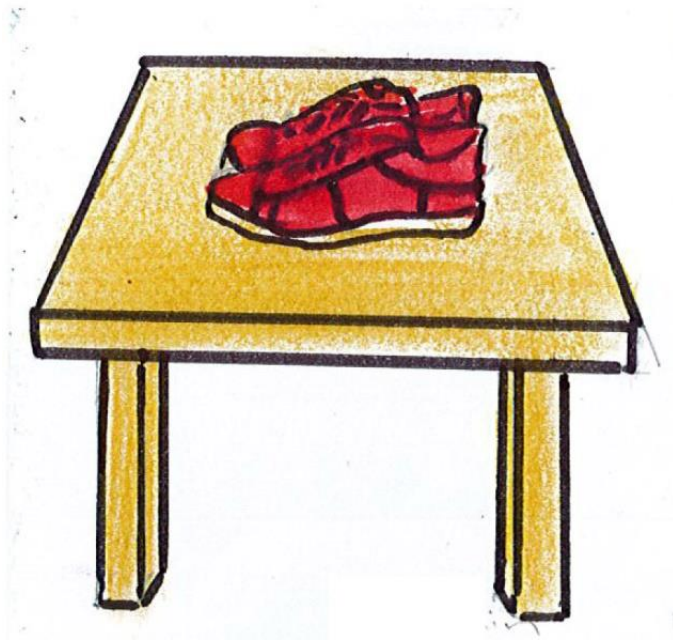
Sleeping with a fan on is thought to bring death by suffocation.

Dreams about a dragon or a pig are a big deal since it signifies great luck with money that day. Koreans even sell their dream to the highest bidder!



17. Britain

Some people avoid putting new shoes on the table as it's thought to bring bad luck.



18. Senegal

People refrain sharing their travel plans, in case the person they are talking to has the devil eyes.



19. Poland

In Poland, putting a bag on the floor is unlucky. **Superstitious** people will always put their bag on a table or chair so that the money can't jump out.



20. India

Let Them Leave in Peace!

Calling out to somebody that is leaving the house is considered to bring bad luck in India. You'll have to run after them instead!

In an attempt to not upset Goddess Lakshmi, Indians who are known for their hospitality, do not give out any **food items or money after sunset.**

In India, some people believe that cutting your fingernails on a Saturday or getting a haircut on a Tuesday will bring **bad fortune.**



21. Canada

Ladybirds are a **sign** of good luck in Canada. People who hold them are thought to become successful in love or money. Killing a ladybird is very unlucky in Canada.



22. Italy

Coins Sprinkled between sheets by the mothers of the bride and groom on their first night since they are thought to bring financial luck.



23. Nepal

Goat Sacrifice

Nepal Airlines fixed malfunctioning jet by sacrificing two goats in front of the plane to appease the Hindu God of sky protection, Akash Bhairab, in addition to the mechanical issues being sorted out.



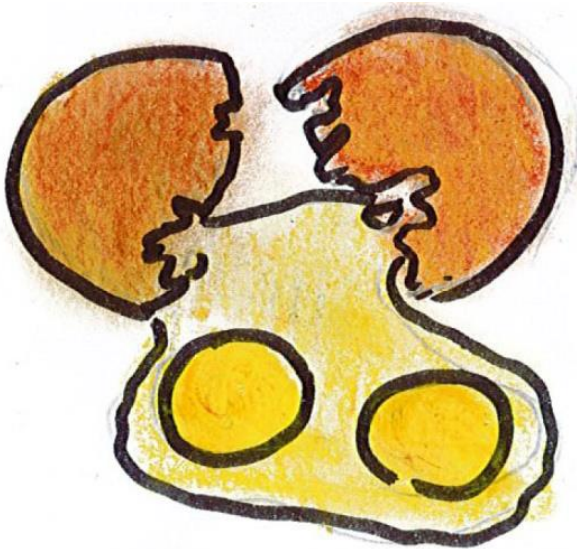
24. Mexico

Wearing the colours red, gold and yellow at New Year Eve's dinner is said to bring fortune and prosperity.



25. Philippines

Cracking an egg with two yolks means that you are going to strike gold in the Philippines.





Afterword

As modern technology permeates the social and economic arenas, students tend to distance themselves from the creative process, relying more and more on technological tools. To reduce this risk and help aspiring young writers produce their own books, I sought and presented a research proposal to the Ministry of Education in 2014. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to showcase their enthusiasm and knowledge. The students of Mahamaya Girls' College achieved a record for the most books written, paving the way for a new level of innovation.

The e-book project will enable the students to reach international readers, and I am confident that they have gained new experiences and challenges that will enable them to face the future with resolve.

I wish all of the young writers the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Senevirathna Mahalekm

Founder of Books Publishing Project Among School Children

2023. 10. 20