

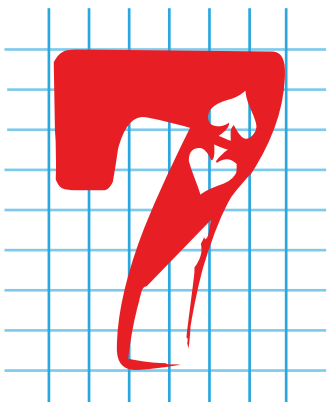
# SUPERSTITIONS IN NUMB3R5!

In every culture around the world people hold a set of beliefs that are not based on reality, but rather on luck, prophecy or folklore. Many of these superstitions are about numbers. However, like all superstitions, there is a story to explain why certain numbers are lucky or unlucky.



In western culture, **THE NUMBER 13** is considered a very unlucky number. It's also common to consider any Friday that lands on the 13th of the month to be considered a very unlucky day. Most people believe in the bad juju associated with of the number thirteen without even knowing why! There are actually many different stories that can explain the superstition.

In Christianity, there were 13 people at the Last Supper, including Judas who was rumored to be the last person to sit at the table. In Viking lore, Loki was the 13th god. In the story of Norna-Gest, uninvited guests showed up at an infant's birthday party, bringing the number of guests up to 13, and the last of the guests cursed the child. Ancient Persians also believed that the 12 signs of the Zodiac would each rule the earth for a thousand years, but after the cycle ended in the 13th millennia, the sky and earth would collapse into chaos.



**Seven** is considered a very lucky number in many societies, mostly due to religious origins. For example, the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath (the holy day). There were seven golden candlesticks in Solomon's temple. Furthermore, the number seven was considered the number of completion in the Bible.

Some people believe that the seventh son born in a family would be born with special powers, and likewise the seventh daughter born in a family would be born with healing abilities. Interestingly enough, seven represents luck in virtually every casino in the world! Seven is a winning roll in craps when there is no number chosen. Additionally, spinning a "777" on the machine means you've hit the jackpot.

# SUPERSTITIONS IN NUMBER 5!

**Do you have a “lucky number”? Why is it lucky to you? Tell a story about a time when that number brought you good luck.**

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**In some buildings, there is no floor #13 or no room #13, because some people consider it such a bad omen. Is this too extreme? Why or why not?**

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