

Unit 12 – Superstitions

analyze / appropriate / century / focus / impact / peer / plentiful / recent / source / terror

12A Introduction

Do you believe that certain things will bring you good luck or bad luck? If you do, you're superstitious. There are lots of interesting superstitions out there. See if you can name some that aren't talked about in the song.

12B Song Lyrics

OK, everybody **focus**,
Pay close attention to everything spoken.
Today we'll talk about superstitions,
If you've never heard of them,
Well, you should listen.
It's the little things you sometimes believe in,
That can bring good luck, or bad luck even.
Here—you can **analyze** a mirror,
Look extra carefully; it all becomes clearer.
If you break it—there's something to fear,
Superstition says that it's bad luck for seven years.
I don't mean to be a **terror**,
I'm not here to frighten you at all or to scare you,
But some people are afraid of the **impact**,
Or the effect, from crossing a black cat.
Want more superstitions? You can ask your **peers**,
I'm sure your classmates have something for your ears.

Superstitious... They're superstitious.

Ay, yo! Is there something I was missing?
Listen, here's a couple more of the superstitions.
I don't know their **source** or where they came from,
Some people believe 'em; some think they're way dumb.
But they're **plentiful**; there's so many,
Yeah, they're plentiful; there are plenty.



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Some are a **century** old; that's a hundred years,
 Some people ignore them, others run in fear.
 If your team's losing the game and you're in the crowd,
 Put your hat or your shirt on inside out.
 They say if you step on a crack, and you'll break your mother's back,
 You don't want to do that, so you better step back.
 They say a cat has nine lives,
 And you should never open your umbrella inside.
 Don't forget your four-leaf clover for good luck,
 Or your rabbit's foot and your horseshoe too, dude.

Superstitious... They're superstitious.

I'm so superstitious, I must say,
 I wait patiently on Groundhog's Day.
 If the groundhog doesn't see his shadow,
 That means spring is on its way.
 I don't know if it's **appropriate** or fitting for this moment,
 But I want to tell you about when I was bowling.
 It was **recent**, it happened recently,
 Not too long ago; no, just the other week.
 I bowled really well; Yeah, I kind of rocked,
 Then I noticed that I was wearing two different kinds of socks.
 So now when I bowl, day or night,
 I wear one sock that's black and one that's white.
 I'm superstitious...

I'm Superstitious...

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12C Words Defined

analyze / appropriate / century / focus / impact / peer / plentiful / recent / source / terror

analyze

(verb) To study carefully or in detail. *Before big football games, the quarterback watches films of the other teams and **analyzes** their game.*

appropriate

(adj) Suitable or fitting. *Flip-flops and a bathing suit is not an **appropriate** outfit to wear to the White House.*

century

(noun) A period of 100 years. *In the 20th **century**, the first person stepped onto the moon.*

focus

(verb) 1. To concentrate. *I know there is an elephant wandering by the window, but please try to **focus** on the lesson.* 2. To make sharper and clearer (like a lens). *Rachel **focused** her camera on the zebra and snapped two great pictures.*

(noun) A central point of activity or interest. *We went to Orlando, but the **focus** of our visit was Disney World.*



impact

(noun) 1. The striking of one object by another; collision. *The bike hit the curb and the **impact** sent Ben over the handlebars.* 2. Influence; effect. *Funk music had a major **impact** on early hip-hop.*

peer

(noun) A person who is equal to another in age, job, or social status. *My classmates are all my **peers**, but some of them aren't my friends at all.*

plentiful

(adj) In great supply; easily available; more than enough. *Water is not **plentiful** in the desert, so animals travel far and wide to find drinking holes.*

recent

(adj) Of a time just before the present. *The most **recent** thing I've heard from Nidea is that her leg is getting better but the cast is starting to itch.*

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source

(noun) The thing or place from which something comes. *Everyone was spreading gossip about the principal, but no one knew the source of the rumors.*

terror

(noun) Great fear. *Eating cars and buildings, the monster caused terror all through the city.*



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12D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

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1. influence; effect	source	impact	peer
2. of a time just before the present	recent	plentiful	appropriate
3. a person who's equal to another	terror	peer	source
4. fitting	plentiful	appropriate	recent
5. to concentrate	analyze	impact	focus

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12E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

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1. When I saw the monster, I screamed in _____.

peer**terror****century**

2. Food used to be _____ here, but now it is hard to find.

recent**appropriate****plentiful**

3. The explorer found the _____ of the river.

peer**source****focus**

4. My mother was born in the last _____.

source**century****terror**

5. Computers can _____ numbers very quickly.

focus**analyze****impact**

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12F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

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1. Vanessa had to adjust the camera so her picture would come out clearly.

2. We were told to wear the right kind of clothes to the fancy restaurant.

3. This city has been around for 100 years.

4. I ran in fear when I saw a dragon in my backyard.

5. George studied the map carefully, looking for a way out of the forest.

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12G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. If someone had **plentiful** fears, that would mean they

- (A) weren't scared of anything
- (B) were only afraid of silly things
- (C) were afraid of a lot of things
- (D) liked to scare people

2. What is a **source** of milk?

- (A) cows
- (B) whole milk
- (C) white
- (D) cookies

3. Who are your **peers**?

- (A) animals
- (B) other students
- (C) your parents
- (D) your teachers

4. Which happened most **recently**?

- (A) You came to school this morning.
- (B) You went to sleep last night.
- (C) You turned two years old.
- (D) You were born.

5. What would have a big **impact**?

- (A) a rainbow
- (B) a car crash
- (C) a desk
- (D) a boring movie

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12H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

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The Rise of the Internet

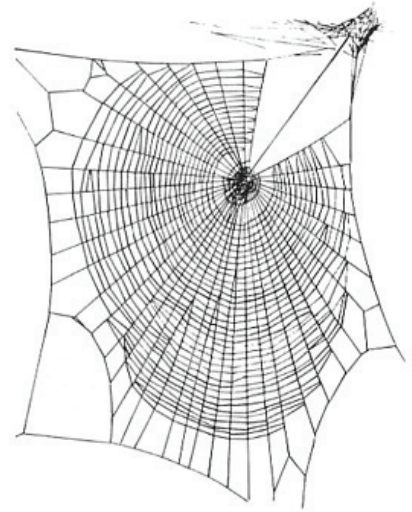
The Internet has not been around for very long—it was created in 1969. From 1969 to 1989, the Internet was mostly used by scientists. Then, in 1989, the “World Wide Web” was created. The World Wide Web is a way to link articles between computers. When you click on a link on a Web page, you are using the World Wide Web. (That is what the www at the beginning of Web addresses stands for: World Wide Web.)

It took a few years for the Internet to have an **impact** on the world. In the early '90s, the Internet was very slow. Most people connected to the Internet using their phone lines. These connections were much too slow for people to listen to music or watch movies on their computers. There wasn't much you could do on the Internet except send emails.

Everything changed in 1993. That year, a browser called Mosaic was released. (A browser is a program used to get on the Internet.) Mosaic made it easy for anyone to use the Internet. It is the **source** of all modern browsers, like Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Safari.

Thanks to Mosaic, regular people started to **focus** on the Internet. They saw that it could be a good way to share information. Still, until 1994, most people used it only to communicate with their **peers**. Then, that year, an online bookstore called Amazon.com was started. Businesses started to see that there was **plentiful** money to be made online. Soon, almost everyone started shopping online.

Today, the Internet is everywhere. Many people use it every single day. It might seem like it has been around for **centuries**, but it is actually a **recent** invention!



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1. Who mostly used the Internet at first?

2. What does www stand for?

3. What are three modern browsers mentioned in the article?

4. Why was Mosaic important?

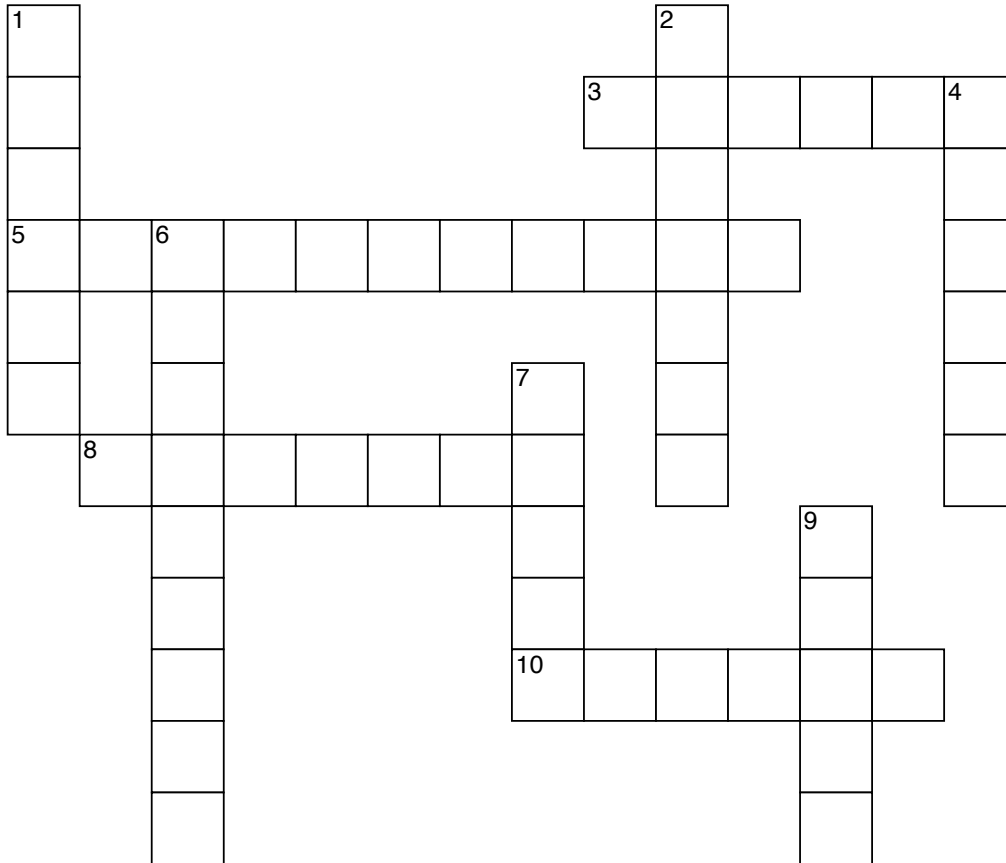
5. What website showed businesses that they could make money online?

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.

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ACROSS

- 3 Mac was filled with _____ while watching the scary movie.
- 5 Sneakers are the _____ shoes to wear in a gym.
- 8 The police used a computer to _____ the criminal's fingerprints.
- 10 The thing or place from which something comes.

DOWN

- 1 Darci's grandpa had a big _____ on her life; she always looked up to him.
- 2 There are 100 years in a _____.
- 4 Of a time just before the present.
- 6 In great supply.
- 7 My _____ are all about the same age as me.
- 9 It's hard for me to _____ in a noisy room.