Good Luck Symbols

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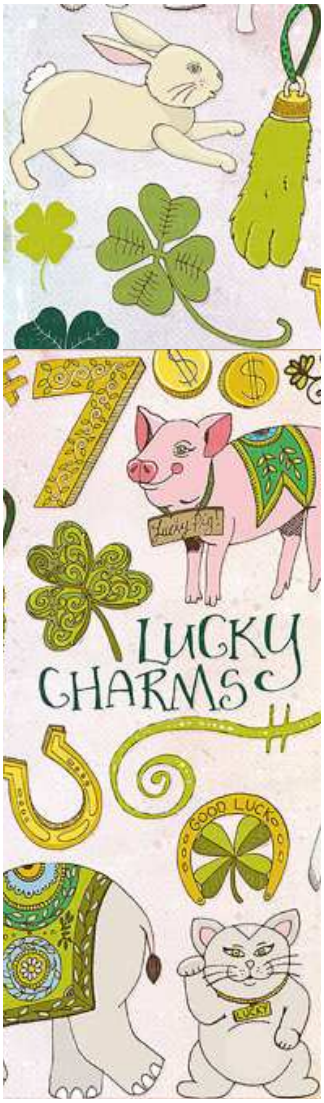

Hi everyone! Welcome back to another English Extravaganza. This week, I'm going to tell you about things that are good luck in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

You can give yourself good luck by crossing your fingers when you say something good. Crossing your fingers is like saying "I hope it happens!" For example, my students would cross their fingers if I told them, "I hope you get a good grade on your next exam!" Usually, though, you need good luck to come to you. One interesting good luck symbol is a penny facing up. The saying goes, "find a penny, pick it up, and all that day, you'll have good luck!"

Another lucky item is a rabbit's foot. Rabbit foot keychains, real or fake, are popular symbols of luck. It comes from a southern U.S. legend. If a rabbit is caught in a cemetery(共同墓地), the left back foot can ward off (かわす)evil(悪). Many people don't want to harm (危害を加える) real rabbits, though, so many lucky keychains are fake.

On the other hand, you should never hurt a ladybug(てんとうむし). These are the little red bugs you see in gardens. In Germany, these bugs are actually called "lucky bugs". If one lands on you, you want it stay and bring you luck. If a man and woman see a ladybug at the same time, they'll fall in love. In Belgium, a ladybug on woman's hand means that she will be married soon. A large number of ladybugs in the spring was a sign to farmers that there would be a good harvest.

The number seven is also considered lucky in the U.S. I'm not sure where this one started, though. One reason might be that the number seven is important in math. The Greeks called seven "the perfect number" because it is the sum of a triangle and a square. In gambling games, the number seven is often a winning number. Because of gambling, a pair of dice can also be lucky.

Horseshoes(蹄鉄) are also lucky. One legend says that horseshoes are lucky because they were made of iron. You want the horseshoe to point up, though. Otherwise, all the luck will fall out. This is an Irish superstition(迷信). Fairies could not touch iron so they avoided houses and people with horseshoes. Another Irish symbol of luck is the four-leaf clover. Like horseshoes, four-leaf clovers could also ward off (かわす)fairies.

So, gather up your lucky charms(お守り) and let's have a great year! I wish all of you good luck for the new year! That's all for this time. See you next week!