



## Friday the 13th: where does it come from and why is it unlucky?

Friday the 13th, considered by many as one of the unluckiest days of the year, is almost here again. Psychologists have even come up with a word for how you're feeling – *paraskavedekatriaphobia*, or fear of Friday the 13th. In 2017, there happen to be two Friday the 13ths – January 13 and October 13.

Here are some fun facts to take your mind off it.

### Why is Friday the 13th unlucky?

Friday the 13th has long been regarded as an unlucky day. **Biblical origins ?** In the New Testament there were 13 people present for Jesus's last supper on Maundy Thursday, the day before Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday.



### Bad things that have happened on Friday 13

- In 1976, New Yorker Daz Baxter was apparently so afraid of Friday the 13th he decided the safest place to stay was his bed. However, Mr Baxter was killed when the floor of his apartment block collapsed that day.
- In 2010, lightning struck a 13-year-old Suffolk boy on Friday 13th at 13:13. Definitely unlucky for him.
- During the early 1990s retired bus conductor Bob Renphrey also vowed to stay in bed on the superstitious day after some seriously bad luck. The Welshman has crashed four cars, fallen into a river and been made redundant on previous Friday the 13ths.

Apparently no one wants to get married on Friday the 13th – so that's cheaper.

### What about the good things that have happened on this inauspicious date?



**The weekend is nearly here!** After every Friday 13, comes a Saturday 14, which can only mean one thing: the weekend is nearly upon us!

**The Hollywood sign** – which originally read HOLLYWOODLAND – was unveiled on Friday 13 July, 1923. It was built to advertise a housing development, but has since become one of the world's biggest tourist attractions.



### Friday the 13th

R	I	N	M	N	M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F	G
E	Y	K	O	O	P	S	O	K	L	O	L	D	A
D	O	A	G	D	E	T	A	C	K	C	A	L	B
L	C	E	T	H	I	R	T	E	E	N	T	H	K
U	W	O	O	D	S	N	O	S	A	J	A	O	I
O	L	O	P	A	S	C	A	R	Y	C	O	P	L
H	H	M	K	H	A	R	U	N	N	I	N	G	L
S	A	O	L	S	F	R	I	D	A	Y	O	O	E
C	R	I	W	S	C	R	E	A	M	I	N	G	R
O	Y	R	O	P	F	A	F	F	C	T	O	U	T
C	W	M	R	E	D	D	A	L	O	L	I	A	O
C	H	H	P	C	S	S	R	R	M	A	K	S	A
R	O	L	S	N	U	O	C	R	U	S	M	N	A
G	G	T	P	B	E	H	T	H	G	I	N	Y	A

FRIDAY  
SCARY  
THIRTEENTH  
SPOOKY  
CAMP  
LADDER  
NIGHT  
KILLER  
COUNSLOR  
SALT  
PROWL  
BLACK CAT  
RUNNING  
WOODS  
MISCHIEF  
SCREAMING  
JASON  
SHOULDER



Defy  
Superstition  
Day

