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## You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Guy Potger - 05-07-2008 11:52

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Do you raise your hand to your brow and say, "Good morning / afternoon Mr Magpie"?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 05-07-2008 11:59

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No but I go 'one for sorrow, two for joy' etc. I only ever seem to see single magpies...

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 05-07-2008 12:10

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"One for sorrow, two for joy, three to get ready; now go, cat, go."

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 05-07-2008 14:05

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Lyra wrote:

No but I go 'one for sorrow, two for joy' etc. I only ever seem to see single magpies...

In my experience, true sorrow follows only when you see eleven of the fuckers.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Guy Potger - 05-07-2008 14:08

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Oh I don't know.

We've a non-too shabby record down at Meadow Lane in recent years.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by coisa alaranjada quente - 05-07-2008 17:07

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Were you watching CBeebies this morning, Guy?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 05-07-2008 17:22

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Didn't we do this a couple of weeks ago?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Femme Folle - 05-07-2008 17:55

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Yes, we have SO done this before.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 05-07-2008 22:46

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I think it "Hello, Mr Magpie, how's your family?"  
but I don't believe in superstitions.

They really are beautiful birds, probably my favourite and not at all responsible in the main for the disappearance of songbirds. That would be cats

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Alderman Barnes - 05-07-2008 23:24

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Absolutely - it's a fucking disgraceful frame-up, that.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by morgan - 06-07-2008 13:17

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"Hello Mr Magpie, how is Mrs Magpie?"

I'm superstitious.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 06-07-2008 13:54

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1. What do you think will happen if you don't say this?
  2. Do you really think it'll happen? In the same sense as you think grass is green or Paris is the capital of France? Really?
- =====

## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by G.Man as Trotaconventos - 06-07-2008 15:06

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In summer, the grass in my garden is brown. And isn't the capital of France Vichy?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 06-07-2008 16:14

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Come,come, you can have a go at religions but let people have the freedom to think that magpies are the arbiters of evil (unless you ask after their nearest and dearest)

You will be questioning the wearing of lucky pants at football matches next.

Anyway, one thing that will happen if you do not ask these questions is that the magpie will view you as rude and it costs nothing to be polite.

Unless, of course, it is towards cats, the nocturnal-kitchen-table-fouling bastards

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by ian.64 - 06-07-2008 16:30

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"Hello, Mr. Magpie. How are you? How's Mrs. Magpie? She all right? What? It was only a question. Yeah, I was only being polite. If that's your fucking attitude, you can shove it, mate. Yeah! You can fuck off an' all! What? What did you say? Lose my job tomorrow? Wife leaves me for another man? Fucking try it, you feathered bugger!

Look! Another magpie! That's good luck for me! Lottery win tomorrow, so in your face, you flighty twat! I'll be giving you the finger from my plush hotel room at the Hyatt! Ha, haaaaaa! Get out of that, you plume-arsed fucker!"

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by coisa alaranjada quente - 07-07-2008 11:20

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"Hello, Mr Magpie. What, you're a crow? All right, calm down, I'm not Bill fucking Oddie, you know. You're all just fucking birds to me. Now piss off. Ow. Stop that."

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by loose cannon - 07-07-2008 12:03

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FF will love this\*, 'magpie chases cat'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfURFy5YHrU>

(\* ironic remark)

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by loose cannon - 07-07-2008 12:05

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Also have to thank AIATL for the inadvertent link to the musings of the Dublin taxi driver who shot the magpie video. It's a blast of Dublin air checking out his other opinion pieces.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 07-07-2008 12:13

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Don't start with crows. When are they rooks, when are they crows and when are they jackdaws?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-07-2008 12:44

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Bored Of Football wrote:

Come,come, you can have a go at religions but let people have the freedom to think that magpies are the arbiters of evil (unless you ask after their nearest and dearest)

But do they really think that, or do they "think" that in some other sense of the word "think"?

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This is a totally serious question. I can't make sense of superstitions as sincerely held opinions, so I'm wondering if they're something psychologically distinct from that.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 13:35

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My little guy had the quote of the weekend with "Dada! I saw a hummingbird on da feeder. He go 'chickadee dee dee dee dee'."

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 14:16

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I don't do the magpie thing, and it pisses me off when I notice people doing it. It strikes me as either particularly stupid, or frighteningly twee. Or both.

But I have neuroses - which I think is all these things are, really - which are equally silly. What do I imagine is going to happen if I don't finish on my left foot at the top and bottom of a flight of stairs?

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 14:20

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Same thing that will happen to any of us: certain death, or a lifetime of dire misfortune. You want that hanging over your head?

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 14:34

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Do you actually think that, though? I know I don't. I just feel anxious.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 14:38

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Do I really believe it? Of course not. No more than I believe walking under a ladder will cause me bad luck. But given the option, I'd still walk around it. But stuff like that - including the Magpie bit - is just the little junk that makes life a bit more fun. It's like playing the lottery. Do it once in a while for a buck and it's a lark. Turn it into a weekly obsession and you're an idiot. Same with most things.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 14:42

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No I know you don't "really believe it". But I mean does it really come into your mind - some specific consequence?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-07-2008 14:49

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WornOldMotorbike wrote:

It's like playing the lottery. Do it once in a while for a buck and it's a lark. Turn it into a weekly obsession and you're an idiot. Same with most things.

Yeah, well, I don't understand that either. A mug's game is a mug's game, whether you're in for a penny or a pound.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 15:02

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TT - some specific consequence, no. Some sense of "oh...really shouldn't do that", yes. Just silliness really.

WE - true enough, in principal. But it's really the same as the argument about drinking just one pint. If you drink an intoxicating beverage without the intention of getting intoxicated, what's the point?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 07-07-2008 15:05

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But I mean does it really come into your mind - some specific consequence?

Well, I just think you can't be too careful. I don't want to increase the chances of things going wrong(er). Like, if it's not true, no harm done, and if it is, well, then you're OK.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-07-2008 15:09

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Lyra wrote:

But I mean does it really come into your mind - some specific consequence?

Well, I just think you can't be too careful. I don't want to increase the chances of things going wrong(er). Like, if it's not true, no harm done, and if it is, well, then you're OK.

Blaise Pascal rears his ugly head?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-07-2008 15:12

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How do you distinguish among superstitions? If I said, oh I dunno, that every time I heard the phrase "fried egg" I had to tap my head eight times, would that be equally plausible? In which case, you know, why not start doing that as well?

"Fried egg".

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

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Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 15:24

Don't do that, Wyatt. My head hurts.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 15:28

I think a lot of it comes from crazy shit your mother or grandmother did when you were a kid. You know, 'don't rock an empty rocking chair' or 'don't put new shoes on a kitchen table'. Old wives' tales.

Just this weekend, Mrs WOM barked at our daughter for leaving her cutlery crossed on an empty plate, and I said "You know that's just stupidity right? And you just gave our daughter shit for it." and she paused and said "But she clearly did it just to upset my mom" and I thought (but wisely didn't say) "Well, good for her."

However, just to be sure, I've completed my fried egg tap and am good to go.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 07-07-2008 15:29

My little guy had the quote of the weekend with "Dada! I saw a hummingbird on da feeder. He go 'chickadee dee dee dee dee'."

Is your son Jimmy Cagney?

You know what I find? When I see a light-hearted thread, I have a overwhelming need to analyse the fuck out of it

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 07-07-2008 15:31

Blaise Pascal rears his ugly head?

I knew someone would say that, and I knew it would be you. x

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 15:31

Lay back. Just relax. Now, how long have you felt this way?

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 15:31

Lyra - are you actually being serious here?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 07-07-2008 15:32

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Mrs WOM barked at our daughter for leaving her cutlery crossed on an empty plate,

You can undo that by taking the bottom knife out from under the top one.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 15:33

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You can undo that by taking the bottom knife out from under the top one.

That'll keep my wife from over-reacting? Done and done.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 07-07-2008 15:38

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TT - sort of, a bit.

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by TonTon - 07-07-2008 15:56

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And you eat with two knives?

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 07-07-2008 15:57

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Lay back. Just relax. Now, how long have you felt this way?

That your son sounds like Jimmy Cagney? Since your post.

Mind you, now you have mentioned it, it does harken back to my childhood.

Maybe I was bullied by a lad in a fedora

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## Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 07-07-2008 15:59

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Just this weekend, Mrs WOM barked at our daughter for leaving her cutlery crossed on an empty plate, and I said "You know that's just stupidity right? And you just gave our daughter shit for it." and she paused and said "But she clearly did it just to upset my mom" and I thought (but wisely didn't say) "Well, good for her."

How long have you been with Mrs WOM, WOM? I only ask as I have been with Mrs Bored 20 years now and we have had full crockery-throwing arguments about the wierdest stuff but never yet anything like that.

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I am wondering how long I have to wait

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 16:28

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We've been together 11 years. Married for 9. But that wasn't a knock-down, drag-out issue by any stretch. I was just pointing out a bit of insanity. That rarely leads to crockery-throwing.

What does lead to it is when I make my point (thereby scoring a point) and then continue to rant on like my mouth is hinged at the back of my head, and continue to run headlong into deep, deep 'should've shut up while I was winning' territory.

Little Jimmy Cagney talks like that because he's not yet three, so everything is 'dis and dat and wiff'. Our current favourite is "Here I'm am."

Wait...let me get my pictures out...

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Lyra - 07-07-2008 16:35

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And you eat with two knives?

I eat my peas with honey  
I've done it all my life  
It makes them taste quite funny  
But it keeps them on the knife

Well I always understood that knives crossed on the table meant an argument to follow, unless you pulled the bottom one out first.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-07-2008 16:52

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Well I always understood that knives crossed on the table meant an argument to follow

It will if you decide to call your wife's mother a 'nutbar'.

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by Bored Of Football - 07-07-2008 21:49

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Woo-hoo, WOM, I am doing the virtual equivalent of making up the spare bed. Do you like coffee or tea in the morning.

"nutbar" indeed. You are the man. I don't say that and my mother-in-law is a nutbar (not that I don't love her)

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### Re:You know when you see a magpie?

Posted by ian.64 - 08-07-2008 07:19

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Mrs WOM barked at our daughter for leaving her cutlery crossed on an empty plate,

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You can undo that by taking the bottom knife out from under the top one.

Or telling the good lady to cool it just a bit and tell her there are worse things to go ballistic at.

I'm thinking of walking under the first ladder I see just for the hell of it. Shit happens whether you or you don't.

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