

Lunar New Year: Welcoming a New Beginning

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. How do people welcome a new year where you live? What symbols or foods are important?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 1. lunar | _____ | A. success and having enough money |
| 2. reunion | _____ | B. connected with the moon |
| 3. zodiac | _____ | C. a set of actions repeated on an important occasion |
| 4. prosperity | _____ | D. a meeting of people after time apart |
| 5. ancestor | _____ | E. a family member from an earlier generation |
| 6. ritual | _____ | F. a system that connects years with animals |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. Lunar New Year is celebrated in many parts of Asia and in communities around the world. Its calendar combines **lunar** months with the solar year. This lunisolar calendar gives the holiday a different date each year. It is often linked with spring and a fresh start.
2. For many families, the most important activity is a **reunion** meal. Relatives travel home, share food and prepare for the new year together. In some traditions, people clean their homes before the holiday to leave old problems behind.
3. Red decorations, lanterns and envelopes are common in many celebrations. Red is often associated with good luck and **prosperity**. The Chinese **zodiac** also gives each year an animal, and people may discuss the qualities connected with that animal.
4. New-year **rituals** vary by region and family. Some people honour an **ancestor**, visit a temple or watch a dragon dance. Food can be symbolic too: long noodles may represent a long life. These practices connect family history with hopes for the future.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. Why does the date of Lunar New Year change?

2. What is the purpose of a reunion meal?

3. What is red often associated with?

4. What does the zodiac connect with each year?

5. How can food be symbolic at the celebration?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Why do people clean or decorate homes before a new year?
- What new-year food has meaning in your culture?
- Do traditions help people feel hopeful?
- How can a family keep an old ritual meaningful for young people?

5. Homework: Write a descriptive paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a new-year tradition or ritual in your family, town or country.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. lunar - B
2. reunion - D
3. zodiac - F
4. prosperity - A
5. ancestor - E
6. ritual - C

Comprehension answers

1. Why does the date of Lunar New Year change?

It follows a lunisolar calendar, combining lunar months with the solar year.

2. What is the purpose of a reunion meal?

It brings relatives together to share food and prepare for the new year.

3. What is red often associated with?

It is often associated with good luck and prosperity.

4. What does the zodiac connect with each year?

It connects each year with an animal.

5. How can food be symbolic at the celebration?

For example, long noodles may represent a long life.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.