

Lunar New Year: A New Start

A2 | Teens / Adults | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 30-40 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. How do you celebrate a new year?

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

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|--|
| 1. new year | _____ | A. good things that happen by chance |
| 2. family | _____ | B. the start of a new year |
| 3. red | _____ | C. long thin pieces of food |
| 4. luck | _____ | D. parents, children and other relatives |
| 5. lantern | _____ | E. a light inside a paper or glass cover |
| 6. noodles | _____ | F. the colour of blood or a stop sign |

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

1. Lunar New Year is an important holiday in many Asian countries and communities. Its calendar uses the moon and the sun. Its date on the usual calendar changes each year.
2. Many people travel to see **family**. They eat a special meal together. This is a happy time for parents, children and grandparents.
3. People often use the colour **red**. Red can mean good **luck**. Homes and streets may have red paper, red envelopes and a **lantern**.
4. Food is important too. Some families eat long **noodles**. The long noodles can mean a long life. People welcome the new year with hope.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

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

1. Where is Lunar New Year important?

2. Why does its date change?

3. Who do many people visit?

4. What can red mean?

5. What can long noodles mean?

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

- What do you do at a new year?
- What colour is lucky in your culture?
- What food has a special meaning?
- Do you like family meals?

5. Homework: Write a short paragraph.

Write 5-6 sentences about a new-year tradition you know.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. new year - B
2. family - D
3. red - F
4. luck - A
5. lantern - E
6. noodles - C

Comprehension answers

1. Where is Lunar New Year important?

It is important in many Asian countries and communities.

2. Why does its date change?

It uses a different calendar, based on the moon and the sun.

3. Who do many people visit?

They visit family.

4. What can red mean?

It can mean good luck.

5. What can long noodles mean?

They can mean 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.