

雅思口语素材：中国农历新年(上) PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

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Have a happy Chinese New Year!by Claire PowellIn the west, we celebrate New Year on the 31st December and 1st January. Resolutions are made I will go to the gym twice a week, I will help my wife with the housework - and probably forgotten! Does that sound like you?

Well, there is another chance, as Chinese New Year is celebrated on January 22nd. Why do the Chinese celebrate New Year at a different time? The traditional Chinese calendar, like many Asian calendars, follows the lunar cycle. So the New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and the celebrations end on the full moon fifteen days later. A month is a ' Moon ' and the cycle lasts about twenty nine or thirty days. In order to catch up with the solar calendar, the Chinese insert an extra month once every seven years out of a nineteen year cycle. This is the same as adding an extra day for a leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year. The origins of the event are so ancient that they cannot be traced. However, the event is an exciting one, swathed in traditions and rituals. Preparations begin a month before the date of the Chinese New Year. People buy presents and clothes, decorate their homes and cook traditional food. Homes are cleaned from top to bottom, as any traces of dirt from the previous year could bring bad luck. Doors and windows are repainted, usually in red to ward off evil

spirits, and then decorated with sayings to bring happiness, wealth and longevity. Fortune cookies are also baked, containing similar hopeful messages. Traditionally, each of the fifteen days has a special significance. The first day of the preparations welcomes the gods from the heavens and earth. Many people avoid eating meat on this day because they believe this will ensure a long and happy life. On the second day, the Chinese pray to their ancestors. They are also especially kind to dogs and feed them well, as this is believed to be the birthday of all dogs. The third and fourth days are for the sons-in-laws to pay respect to their parents-in-law. The fifth day is called Po Woo. On that day people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. No one visits families or friends on the fifth day because it will bring bad luck. Visiting families and friends is resumed between the sixth and the tenth days, and people also visit temples to pray for good fortune and health. The seventh day is the day for farmers to present their produce. Farmers make a drink from seven types of vegetables to celebrate their work. The seventh day is also considered the birthday of human beings. Noodles and raw fish are eaten to promote long life and success. People typically have a family reunion dinner on the eighth day and on the ninth day they make offerings to the Jade Emperor. Jade comes in many shades of green and is thought to bring good luck. During the tenth and twelfth days, families invite friends and relatives for dinner. Probably more food is eaten then than at any other time in the year! Traditional food made at this time has special characteristics, all supposed to enhance the hosts and guests success and good health. Black moss seaweed and

dried bean curd are symbols of wealth and happiness. A whole fish represents togetherness and abundance, while a chicken symbolises prosperity. Anything white, such as uncooked tofu is not served, as white is thought to bring bad luck. After all this rich food, on the thirteenth day, people eat simple rice soup and mustard greens to cleanse their system! The fourteenth day sees people preparing for the Lantern Festival held on the fifteenth night, when traditional Chinese lanterns are displayed and fireworks light the sky in a blaze of colour. Parents give children money in lucky red envelopes and families visit their neighbours to offer greetings. The message from the Chinese New Year celebrations is one of peace and happiness for family members and friends. It is a time for family and friends to unite and give thanks for their good fortune, as well as a chance to wish that their good luck continues! Do you celebrate the Chinese New Year? If so, tell us more about it. Do you celebrate New Year in a different way? If so, tell us more about it. 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)