

CHINESE NEW YEAR: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

Cambridge

B2 (First Certificate)

Warm-up: Your Experience & Opinions

Discuss in pairs:

- Have you ever celebrated Chinese New Year or another non-Western festival?
- What do you already know about Chinese New Year?
- Do you think traditions are important in modern societies? Why / Why not?

Pre-Reading Warm-up: How Does an Open Cloze Work?

Look at the examples.	Possible answer:
Chinese New Year is one ___ the most important festivals in China	
What type of word would fit into the gap? How do you know?	
Now try one more example: Families travel long distances ___ they can celebrate together. Write ONE word: _____.	

Reading and Use of English Part 2:

Chinese New Year Traditions (Open Cloze)

Read the text and complete the gaps (1–8) with ONE word in each gap

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of (1)_____ most important celebrations in China. It usually takes place between late January and mid-February, depending (2)_____ the lunar calendar. During this time, families (3)_____ a special effort to return to their hometowns so they can celebrate together.



One of the main traditions is cleaning the house before the festival begins. This is done in order to remove bad luck and make space (4) _____ good fortune. Red decorations are also very common, (5) _____ the colour red is believed to bring happiness and protection.

If you (6) _____ invited to a Chinese New Year dinner, you will probably notice that food plays a central role. Dishes are carefully chosen for the meanings, and eating together symbolises unity and prosperity. (7) _____ the festival has ancient origins, it continues to be celebrated today, even in modern cities, (8) _____ shows how strong these traditions still are.

Chinese New Year Guessing Game

Student Instructions

Work in pairs or small groups.

Read the sentences and decide:

- **T** = True
- **F** = False

Guess if you're unsure. You don't need to be right



- A. The biggest Chinese New Year celebration in the world takes place in **China**. ☐
- B. More people travel for Chinese New Year than for any other annual event in the world. ☐
- C. Chinese New Year is officially celebrated in more than **10 countries**. ☐
- D. Some cities outside China organise Chinese New Year parades that last several hours. ☐
- E. Fireworks are allowed everywhere in China during Chinese New Year. ☐
- F. Chinese New Year celebrations can be larger **outside** China than in some Chinese cities. ☐

Pre-listening: Predict & Prepare (Listening Part 2)

Before you listen, work in pairs and predict what you think you will hear.

1. The zodiac animal for 2026 is the _____
2. During Chinese New Year, families often eat _____, which symbolise wealth.
3. Many people take _____ days off work

Now listen and check your predictions!





Listening Part 2: Chinese New Year – Dates, Zodiac & Food

You will hear a speaker talking about Chinese New Year in 2026 and 2027 (Link to video: [Chinese New Year](#))

For questions 9–16, complete the sentences with one word or a short phrase

The date for the Chinese New Year is decided according to the (9)_____.

The zodiac animal for 2026 is the (10)_____.

One negative aspect about people born in this year is that they are often described as (11)_____

During Chinese New Year, families often eat (12)_____, which are shaped like money.

Another traditional dish is fish, which represents (13)_____ for the year ahead.

Chinese New Year in 2027 will start (14)_____ than this year.

Many people take (15)_____ days off work.

Traditionally, celebrations continue until the (16)_____ Festival.

Speaking: Cambridge-style Discussion (B2)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">modern lifestyles and technology	<p>Work in pairs.</p> <p>Task:</p> <p>Your teacher says:</p> <p><i>“Some people think traditional festivals are becoming less important in modern life.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">young people’s attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">the importance of family traditions	<p>Do you agree? Talk about all the points included</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">food and celebrations

ANSWER KEY

Pre-Use of English Warm-up (Exam Strategy)

Look at the example:

Chinese New Year is one ___ the most important festivals in China.

Possible answer:

of

Question:

What type of word would fit into the gap? How do you know?

A preposition is needed because the structure is:

one + of + the + superlative

Now try one more example

Sentence:

Families travel long distances ___ they can celebrate together.

Correct answer:

so

Explanation:

A **connector** is needed to show **result**.

Open Cloze Answers:

1. **the** → fixed structure (*one of the most...*)
2. **on** → fixed collocation (*depend on*)
3. **make** → fixed phrase (*make an effort*)
4. **for** → preposition (*space for something*)
5. **because** → cause/reason connector
6. **are** → passive form (*are invited*)
7. **Although** → contrast connector
8. **which** → relative pronoun referring to the whole idea

TRUE or FALSE? Chinese New Year Guessing Game

- A. **F** – some of the largest parades are in cities like **Hong Kong, London, New York, and San Francisco**
- B. **T** – it's considered the world's largest annual human migration
- C. **T** – celebrated across Asia and in countries with large Chinese communities
- D. **T**

E. **F** – fireworks are restricted in many cities

F. **T** – some international celebrations are larger than local ones

Listening Part 2 – Answer Key

1. lunar calendar
2. Horse
3. impatient
4. dumplings
5. abundance
6. earlier
7. nine
8. Lantern

Audio Script (Teacher Use)

Chinese New Year does not fall on the same date every year. Some people think it depends on school holidays or the weather, but in fact it follows the Chinese lunar calendar, which is based on the movement of the moon.

In 2026, Chinese New Year begins on February seventeenth. Although last year was The Year of The Snake, This year is known as the Year of the Horse. People born this year are often described as energetic and independent, and they are believed to enjoy freedom and new experiences, although some say they can be impatient.

Food plays an important role during the celebrations. Families often eat dumplings, which symbolise wealth, as their shape looks similar to old Chinese gold coins. Fish is also commonly served, because it represents abundance and the hope of having more than enough in the year ahead.

In 2027, Chinese New Year starts earlier, on February sixth. Although the official public holiday is seven days long, many people are able to take nine days off work, depending on their company.

Traditionally, the celebrations do not really end until the Lantern Festival, which marks the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.