



Dear Educator,

Each January 1, people around the world mark a new year. This day represents an opportunity for new beginnings. The Chinese New Year, which begins this year on January 23, also celebrates a fresh start.



A new year offers new possibilities for English language instruction, and we are excited to

announce the opening of our Reading Gallery. As part of our year-long celebration, we will be sending you a monthly fiction or nonfiction reading. These readings are designed to help English learners master English grammar and build academic language.

The first of these readings is attached. It's a special Chinese New Year reading, which reinforces the future progressive tense. This reading is especially appropriate for English learners at Levels 3-5.

Happy New Year!

The Grammar Gallery Team



Families Prepare for Chinese New Year Celebration

By Linda Wu

January 3, 2012

On January 23, 2012, families across the region **will be celebrating** the Chinese New Year. Many **will be watching** a Chinese New Year parade, and then they **will be gathering** with friends and relatives for a big feast. So what exactly is the Chinese New Year? The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements, so the date of the New Year's celebration varies. The first day of the year can be anywhere between the end of January and the middle of February.

The Chinese New Year is traditionally a 15-day event. It begins with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Each year is dedicated to a specific animal—the dragon, horse, monkey, rat, boar, rabbit, dog, rooster, ox, tiger, snake, or ram. This year—2012— is the year of the



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dragon. During the New Year's celebration, many people **will be wearing** red clothes. Some believe that the color red protects a person from evil spirits.

Most people celebrate Chinese New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with family. It's considered a time to be thankful. It's a time to remember family members who have died. It's also considered a time of change—out with the old, in with the new!

Will you be celebrating the Chinese New Year? We asked this question to some local residents.

➤ *The fifteenth day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival. It is celebrated at night with lantern displays. Many children **will be carrying** lanterns in a parade.*

◀ *This photograph shows Chinese New Year's Eve festivities in China. People set off fireworks to chase away the bad spirits from the previous year and welcome the new year. People also light candles and incense as they are doing in this picture.*



Families Prepare for Chinese New Year Celebration



continued



Chinese New Year is our most important holiday, so I **will be spending** New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with my family. I **will be giving** money to my children. It's a tradition to place money in red envelopes. I also **will be making** a special New Year's cake called "Nian gao."

-Stephen R., San Francisco



We **will be watching** the parade in San Francisco's Chinatown. It's considered one of the best parades in the world! We also **will be going** to the New Year's flower fair.

-Juan and Tina F., Mill Valley



In the days leading up to the new year, I **will be cleaning** my house. Traditionally, we thoroughly clean our homes to get rid of any bad luck and get the house ready for good luck. All of this cleaning should be finished by the start of the new year.

-Xiu Li F., Oakland



1. What does “varies” mean in the following sentence? *The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements, so the date of the New Year’s celebration varies.*
 - helps
 - changes
 - disagrees

2. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true?
 - Traditional Chinese New Year celebrations last for 15 days.
 - Chinese New Year begins every January 23.
 - Chinese New Year can start in February.

3. According to the article, what do children do during the Lantern Festival?
 - put lanterns in the river
 - give lanterns to their parents
 - carry lanterns in a parade

4. Who will be making Nian gao, a special New Year’s cake?
 - Stephen R.
 - Juan F.
 - Xiu Li F.

5. Choose the best phrase to complete this sentence: *Next week, Rosie _____ Chinese New Year with her friends in New York City.*
 - are celebrating
 - has been celebrating
 - will be celebrating

