

# China's Holidays



中国有很多传统节日，比方说，新年、春节、端午节、中秋节、元宵节、什么的。除夕的时候，很多人会办晚会，跟家人，爸爸、妈妈、舅舅、舅妈、朋友、一起过新年。

除夕的时候，我听说中国人常常在墙上贴一张红纸。在红纸上“幸福”的“福”，但是“福”字常常贴倒了。你可能觉得这个传统很奇怪，但是“福倒了”跟“福到了”的发音一样，所以中国人觉得做这个传统会给他们带来福。

吃年夜饭的时候，很多人会去餐馆儿订餐，又玩儿又方便。但是，我听说要是你给餐馆儿订餐，家家会说没有位子了。所以，除夕的时候，很多人得忙着做饭。为了过年，你得吃鱼，比方说，清蒸鱼、红烧鱼、什么的。我听说清蒸鱼吃起来很好吃，但是做起来很难。另外，你不能都吃鱼，得剩下一些。中国人不觉得这是浪费。因为，“年年有鱼”“年年

有余”。“鱼”跟“余”的发音一样。“余”有剩下的意思。所以，过新年的时候，人人都吃鱼，因为他们觉得明年会剩下钱。

很多人会一边吃年夜饭一边看春节晚会。电视里倒计时以后，家人会给一起拜年。十二点的时候，很多人常常以茶代酒，举起杯来，干杯。他们常常给家人新年的祝福，比方说，“学习进步”、“事业成功”、“恭喜发财”什么的。父母也常常给孩子红包。过新年的时候，很多人也常常放鞭炮，看得出来气氛很热闹。

除了新年以外，中国还有很多别的传统节日。农历五天除污是端午节，人人都吃粽子。八月十五是中秋节，有点像美国的感恩节，所以中秋节是一家人团圆的节日。中秋节的时候，很多人会吃月饼。正月十五是元宵节，吃元宵嘛！我对中国的传统很有意思。



*See translation below*

Translation:

China has many traditional holidays, for example, the New Year, the Spring Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Lantern Festival, and so on. During New Year's Eve, many people host parties and celebrate with their family, dad, mom, aunts, uncles, and friends.

During New Year's Eve, I heard that people often hang red papers or decorations on the wall. On this paper is the character 福 (luck/fortune/blessing) in the word 幸福 (happiness), but the 福 character may be upside down. You may think this is a strange tradition, but the phrase 福倒了 (meaning: the 福 character is upside down) has the same pronunciation as the phrase 福到了 (meaning: good fortune has arrived). So people think that this tradition will bring them good fortune.

During Chinese New Year's Eve Dinner, many people go to restaurants to order food, which is fun and convenient. But, I heard that if you try to order food from these restaurants, every restaurant will say that they do not have seats (it is very busy during the holidays). So, during New Year's Eve, many people busily cook food. In order to celebrate the new year, you eat fish, such as steamed fish, braised fish, and so on. I heard that steamed fish is very delicious, but making it is very difficult. Additionally, it is a tradition to not eat the whole fish, but to save some. This is not considered wasteful. Because, the saying “年年有鱼” (fish every year) and the saying “年年有余” (surplus every year) has the pronunciation. Fish and surplus have the same pronunciation. So, while celebrating the new year, everyone eats fish, because they believe that they will have a surplus in money and fortune next year.

Many people eat dinner and watch the Spring Festival Gala at the same time. After seeing the countdown on TV, family members will wish each other a happy new year. At midnight, many people will raise their glasses and give a toast. They often give wishes to family members for the new year, such as doing well in studies, being successful in your job, and so on. Parents will give their kids money in a red pocket. While celebrating the new year, people often light firecrackers, you can tell from looking that the atmosphere is very lively.

Besides the new year, China also has many other traditional holidays. There is the dragon boat festival, everyone eats 粽子。Mid-Autumn Festival is a little bit similar to Thanksgiving, so it is a holiday where family members reunite. During the Mid-Autumn Festival, many people eat moon cake. During the Lantern Festival, you eat 元宵！ I find Chinese holidays very interesting.