

M: Hello English learners! Welcome to **EnglishPod**! My name is **Marco**.

E: And I'm **Erica**.

M: And today we have a very special guest in our studio – **Daini**.

D: Hi everyone, I'm Daini.

M: Daini is part of our **EnglishPod** team and today she's gonna help us with this **Chinese New Year's** lesson. It's an **intermediate** lesson, but it has a lot of cultural aspects about Chinese New Year. So, that's what Daini's gonna help us out with today.

E: Yes, today we're going to learn a little bit about Chinese New Year in English. And we're also going to learn some language for describing things that we're excited about.

D: Okay, yeah! I'm excited to hear this show.

M: Okay, so, let's listen to the dialogue now and then when we come back, we'll explain everything.

### **DIALOGUE, FIRST TIME**

M: Okay, so, Chinese New Year; a lot of exciting vocabulary here.

E: Uhu.

D: Right.

M: Before we get into describing it, let's look at the vocabulary that we saw... in "**language takeaway**".

*Voice: Language takeaway.*

M: The first word on language takeaway – **dumplings**.

E: Dumplings.

M: Dumplings.

E: Dumplings.

D: Well, in Chinese we call it **Shuizhao**...

E: Uhu.

D: Um, and it's a very traditional Chinese food. And it's getting very famous now.

E: Yes, so, it's basically small pieces of **dough** with...

D: Uhu.

E: Maybe some meat or some vegetables inside.

M: And then they are boiled.

E: Usually in a soup.

M: In a soup.

E: Uhu.

M: But you can also have fried dumplings.

E: Yeah-yeah, that's right.

M: Which are really good.

E: Yeah.

D: Yeah.

E: So, if you know Italian food, they're really similar to a **tortellini**.

M: Uh, exactly.

E: Uhu.

D: Ah.

M: Or in Latin America it's very similar to maybe an **empanada**.

E: Alright.

M: It's like a small, little empanada.

E: Okay. Marco, what's our next word?

M: Alright, our next word – **firecrackers**.

E: Firecrackers.

M: Firecrackers.

E: Firecrackers.

M: This is a firecracker.

*Sound of a firecracker.*

D: Firecrackers are so common in China. We use it all the time in all occasions.

E: Yep.

D: And especially on the New Year's Eve, um...

E: Uhu.

D: Traditionally people use it to **scare off** the... evil...

M: Evil spirits.

D: The evil spirits.

M: So, they...

E: Yeah.

M: Oh-okay.

D: Yeah.

E: So, on Chinese New Year, there are millions of firecrackers.

M: Millions of firecrackers.

E: Yeah.

D: Uhu.

M: Now, there're also a lot of **fireworks**.

E: Fireworks.

M: Fireworks.

E: Fireworks.

M: So, fireworks are similar to firecrackers.

E: But they have lots of light.

M: Light.

E: Yeah.

M: They... they go up in the air and explode and you see lots of nice colors.

E: Beautiful colors.

M: Yeah.

E: Yeah.

M: Very popular in Fourth of July in the United States.

E: Or New Year's Eve.

M: New Year's Eve.

E: Uhu.

D: Uhu.

M: Fireworks. Okay, now let's look at our last word.

D: **Set off.**

M: Set off.

E: Set off.

M: Set off.

E: Set off.

M: So, this is the **verb** you would use with firecrackers.

E: Yeah, it means like explode the firecracker.

M: Right, set off the firecracker.

E: Set off the bomb.

M: Set off fireworks.

E: Well, let's listen to our dialogue a second time and this time it'll be a little bit slower, so that you can understand the language a bit better.

**DIALOGUE, SECOND TIME (slow)**

M: Okay, so, we saw some really great phrases of describing excitement.

E: Uhu.

M: Right? So, let's start with "**fluency builder**".

*Voice: Fluency builder.*

E: We have four phrases for you today. And the first one is **I'm so excited about.**

M: I'm so excited about.

E: I'm so excited about.

M: So, when you say "I'm so excited", it means that you are...

E: Like really happy...

M: That something is gonna happen.

E: Yeah, so happy you can't relax.

M: Hehe. Right, so, you could say "I'm so excited about our vacation next month".

E: I'm so excited about opening all my presents.

M: Exactly, so, excited. Now, we also saw another really great word, very similar to **I'm so excited.**

E: Yeah.

M: **I'm really looking forward to.**

E: I'm really looking forward to.

M: I'm really looking forward to.

E: I'm really looking forward to.

M: So, this is a little bit less than excited, right?

E: A bit less strong.

M: Right.

E: Yeah.

M: So, you would say “oh, I’m really looking forward to meeting your new girlfriend”.

E: Or you can say “I’m really looking forward to seeing that movie”.

M: Exactly.

E: Uhu.

M: So, it means you’re a little bit excited, but not SO excited.

E: Yeah, you’re happy about something that’s going to happen in the future.

M: Now, let’s look at our next phrase and it’s very similar to excited – **I can’t wait.**

E: I can’t wait.

M: I can’t wait.

E: I can’t wait.

M: So, this is very, very similar to **I’m so excited.**

E: Yes, when you’re so excited for something, you can’t wait for it.

M: Right, let’s listen to some more examples of **I can’t wait.**

***Voice: Example one.***

*A: I’m so excited I can’t wait to see you.*

***Voice: Example two.***

*B: Hm, smells delicious, I can’t wait for dinner.*

***Voice: Example three.***

*C: I can’t wait to open my presents.*

M: So, we can use it again the same way: I can’t wait to go on vacation next month.

E: I can’t wait to open all my presents.

M: Exactly. Now, our last phrase – **I bet.**

E: I bet.

M: I bet.

E: I bet. B-E-T. Bet.

M: Bet. So, when you say I bet it means that you're pretty sure about something.

E: Uhu. You predict it will happen.

M: Right, so, let's listen to some more examples of **I bet**.

***Voice: Example one.***

*A: I bet I'm going to get so much money for Chinese New Year.*

***Voice: Example two.***

*B: Robert's late, where do you think he is?*

*C: I bet he's stuck in traffic.*

***Voice: Example three.***

*D: I bet the boss is gonna give us a big bonus this year.*

E: Well, I guess we're ready to listen to our dialogue for the third time and then when we come back, Daini's gonna tell us all about Chinese New Year.

### **DIALOGUE, THIRD TIME**

M: So, Daini, what are these red packets of money about?

D: So, in Chinese we call it **Hong Bao**...

E: Yeah.

D: And it's basically a bag full of money.

E: Wow!

M: Why do you get money?

D: As a gift.

M: As a gift.

D: Yeah.

M: Wow. The children get it, though?

D: Only children get it.

M: Wow.

D: Or if you're a university student and you haven't got a job yet, then you can still ask for Hong Bao from your parents.

M: Really?

D: Or your relatives.

E: So, is there some meaning to this gift of money?

D: Well, it is believed that children have to put these red envelopes under their pillow...

E: Yep.

D: On New Year's Eve.

M: Yep.

D: To scare away the evil spirits.

M: Okay.

E: Again like the firecrackers.

M: Again evil spirits... a lot of evil spirits in China.

D: Hehe.

M: Hehe.

E: So, Daini, how much money would a kid get for Chinese New Year?

D: Well, when I was little...

E: Yeah.

D: The best year I got was three thousand RMB.

E: Which is like... almost...

M: Five hundred dollars.

E: Wow.

D: Yeah.



M: Almost five hundred.

D: Yeah, I was so rich at that time.

M: Wow, amazing.

D: Aha.

M: What about this game **Mahjong**?

D: Mahjong?

M: Mahjong.

D: Have you played that?

M: No.

D: No, um, **at the end** again it's a very traditional Chinese game and...

E: Uhu.

D: Uh, you will see senior people s... always gathering along the table...

E: So, old people.

D: Old people.

E: Yeah.

M: So, it's like a board game, kind of like chess?

D: It's kind of like chess, but they have like special... specially made chess.

M: Oh.

D: It's very different.

M: Okay.

E: So, I wanna know more about these, uh, the fireworks and firecrackers on Chinese New Year.

D: Okay, usually we buy firecrackers.

E: Yep.

D: I believe firework... fireworks are more expensive.

E: Uhu.

M: Uhu.

D: So, we play firecrackers **Bao Jung**, uh, and then usually we do it, uh, right after the midnight.

E: Uhu.

M: Uhu.

D: So, twelve o'clock.

E: Yep.

D: This's very loud and...

E: Yeah.

D: Um, say for example, I personally don't even dare to stay close when they set off the firecrackers, because...

E: Yeah.

D: It's just way too loud.

E: Yeah.

M: Hehe. It's... and everyone starts to light them...

E: Yeah.

M: So, it's like...

E: No, it's amazing.

M: The city...

E: I... um, I've... I've seen Chinese New Year three times in China...

D: Uhu.

E: And each time I've just been amazed like... it's so, so cool and so noisy and so awesome. I mean, you've got to visit China to see this.

M: Yeah, yeah, it's a really cool festival.

E: Yeah.

M: And definitely playing with firecrackers is always fun, so...

D: Yeah.

E: Maybe a little bit dangerous.

M: Yeah.

E: Well ,everyone, uh, we've just learned about how New Year's is celebrated in China. And we wanna know how do you celebrate New Year's in your country?

M: Exactly, how do you welcome the New Year? How do you scare away evil spirits?

E: Yeah.

M: Right?

E: Yeah. So, come to our website at [englihpod.com](http://englihpod.com) and leave us your comments.

M: That's right, Daini, Erica and I will be there to answer all you questions. So, be sure to send us some comments.

E: Well, everyone, thanks for listening and until next time... Good bye!

M: Bye!

D: Bye!