

Wisdom and Growth in the Year of the Wood Snake

#team
#NGL

1. What do you know about the Chinese New Year? | Pre-reading task

1. What does the Chinese New Year celebrate?

- a) The birthday of the Chinese emperor
- b) The start of the lunar calendar
- c) The invention of fireworks

2. Which color is most associated with the Chinese New Year?

- a) Blue
- b) Red
- c) Green

3. Why are red decorations commonly used during Chinese New Year celebrations?

- a) To symbolize wealth and prosperity
- b) To represent joy and health
- c) Both a and b

4. What does cleaning the house before the New Year traditionally symbolize?

- a) Removing bad luck and preparing for good fortune
- b) Starting the year with a fresh environment
- c) Honoring ancestors

5. Which of these is a traditional activity during Chinese New Year?

- a) Sending greeting cards
- b) Exchanging red envelopes with money
- c) Lighting candles

6. Which dish is believed to bring good fortune during Chinese New Year?

- a) Dumplings
- b) Sushi
- c) Roast turkey

2. Read the article. Were your predictions from ex.1 correct?



Wisdom and Growth in the Year of the Wood Snake

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, is one of the most important celebrations in Chinese culture. This festival, steeped in centuries-old traditions, marks the beginning of the lunar calendar and is a time for families to reunite, celebrate, and look forward to the future. In 2025, the Chinese New Year falls on January 29th, introducing the Year of the Wood Snake.

Symbolism of the Snake

In the Chinese zodiac, the snake symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and transformation. People born in the Year of the Snake are believed to be intelligent, resourceful, and elegant, but they may also have a tendency to be secretive or cautious. The addition of the Wood element brings qualities of growth, renewal, and adaptability, suggesting that 2025 will be a year of personal and societal transformation.

Traditions and Celebrations

The Chinese New Year is celebrated with vibrant customs aimed at bringing good luck and warding off bad fortune. Red decorations, symbolizing happiness and prosperity, are seen everywhere, from lanterns and banners to clothing. Families often clean their homes thoroughly to sweep away bad luck and make room for good fortune. Traditional foods such as dumplings, spring rolls, and rice cakes are shared during festive meals, each dish carrying symbolic meanings of wealth, health, and longevity.

The Year of the Wood Snake: A Time for Change

The Wood Snake combines the snake's natural wisdom with the wood element's focus on growth and development. This year encourages individuals to embrace change, make thoughtful decisions, and focus on personal and environmental sustainability. It's a time to reevaluate priorities and work toward meaningful goals, whether in relationships, careers, or lifestyle choices.

A Global Celebration

Although rooted in Chinese culture, the Lunar New Year is celebrated worldwide, particularly in countries with large Chinese communities. Parades featuring dragon and lion dances, fireworks displays, and cultural festivals bring people together to honor this joyous occasion. In 2025, the Year of the Wood Snake offers an opportunity for all to reflect on growth, balance, and the importance of making wise choices for the future.





3. True, False or Not Given? I reading comprehension

1. The Chinese New Year always begins at the same time as the Western New Year.
2. The snake in the Chinese zodiac represents wisdom, transformation, and deception.
3. People born in the Year of the Snake are known for being outgoing and impulsive.
4. The Wood element is associated with environmental awareness and harmony in relationships.
5. Cleaning the house before the New Year is meant to sweep away bad luck and make room for good fortune.
6. Dumplings are shaped like ancient coins and are thought to bring wealth, while spring rolls symbolize prosperity.
7. The Year of the Wood Snake is a time to focus on careful planning and adaptability to change.
8. Fireworks are used during Chinese New Year to scare away evil spirits.
9. Chinese zodiac signs are only important during the Lunar New Year celebrations.
10. The Year of the Wood Snake encourages people to avoid traditional celebrations and focus solely on modern innovations.

4. Match the collocations with their definitions.

mark the beginning

steeped in traditions

bring good luck

symbolize transformation

sweep away

make room for

festive meals

focus on sustainability

embrace change

reevaluate priorities

- a) Clear space or prepare for something new and positive.
- b) Represent a significant change or shift.
- c) Rich in cultural or historical practices.
- d) Special dishes prepared and eaten during a celebration.
- e) Think about what is most important in your life and make changes.
- f) Help ensure good fortune or success.
- g) Remove unwanted things, like bad luck, to start fresh.
- h) Concentrate on environmentally friendly practices.
- i) Celebrate or highlight the start of an event or period.
- j) Accept and adapt to new situations or opportunities.





4. Fill in the gaps with the collocations from the previous exercise.

1. The Lunar New Year is a time to _____ of the lunar calendar.
2. This festival is _____, with customs passed down for generations.
3. Families often clean their homes to _____ bad luck and prepare for the New Year.
4. Red decorations are believed to _____ and prosperity.
5. Before starting a new project, it's good to _____ priorities and set clear goals.
6. During Chinese New Year, families gather to enjoy _____ together.
7. The Year of the Wood Snake encourages people to _____ and protect the environment.
8. As times change, it's important to _____ and try new ways of doing things.
9. Cleaning the house is a way to _____ good fortune and positive energy.
10. The snake in the zodiac is said to _____ and wisdom.

5. 3-2-1 summary

Three Things You Learned

Write three key points or facts you remember from today's lesson.

Two Questions You Have

List two questions or areas you'd like to know more about based on what we discussed.

One Connection You Can Make

Identify one way today's topic connects to your own life, culture, or previous knowledge.

