



Unit 1

Understanding Chinese culture

■ Introduction to the unit

- The topic of this unit is about Chinese culture.
- Many Chinese students find it very difficult to introduce Chinese culture to foreign friends. The biggest problem is that they don't know how to express their understanding about Chinese culture or how to explain some typical concepts in Chinese culture. Only by deepening their understanding of Chinese culture, will they be able to introduce those typical Chinese ideas or concepts to the outside world.
- Reading A introduces the traditions of the Spring Festival in China. By studying it, students will learn more about traditional Chinese New Year celebration activities. Most importantly, students will learn how to introduce the New Year to foreign friends. Reading B explains why Chinese people love the colour red.
- The featured activity is in the Quiz part. The Quiz tests students' knowledge about do's and don'ts in the New Year, which are believed to bring good luck or bad luck.
- Language focus

Grammar: Present participles used as adverbials

Vocabulary building: Word pairs

Important words and phrases: abundance, attach importance to, auspicious, bid, festivity, lunar, paste, permeate, rejoicing, reverse, usher in, ward off

adopt, adore, charm, dignity, display, eternal, fascinate, give out, harmony, prosperity, reunion, shoot, signify, stand out

Around the topic

1. Your ideas

Read the instructions in class. Divide students into groups of four or five. Ask them to discuss the questions. Students are possibly from different parts of China. There may be special celebration activities in their hometowns during the Spring Festival. Encourage them to share with group members their information. When they finish, ask some volunteers to report their discussion results.

2. Vocabulary

Remind students that names of some typical Chinese things do not have exact equivalents in English. Ask them to guess the meanings of the English words and expressions related to the Spring Festival.

Answers

lunar calendar	阴历
solar calendar	阳历
dumplings	饺子
firecrackers	爆竹
fireworks	焰火
Spring Festival couplets	春联
New Year's cake	年糕
New Year pictures	年画
reunion dinners	团圆饭
lion dances	舞狮表演
red envelopes	红包
rice dumplings	粽子
The Lantern Festival	元宵节
temple fairs	庙会

3. Listening and speaking

—◆ A ◆—

Ask students to read the questions first. Then play the recording and encourage them to take notes while listening.

Answers

1. They are talking about the Spring Festival.
2. Li Ming spent his holiday with his family in his hometown.
3. Susan is curious about how Chinese people celebrate the Spring Festival.
4. Giving presents and staying with the family.
5. Family members will stay at home making dumplings together. Many people enjoy watching the CCTV Spring Festival Gala. The evening is usually spent watching TV, playing games, talking, eating and drinking.

Scripts

- Susan: Glad you are back. We missed you during the vacation. How was your holiday?
- Li Ming: It was fine. I had a wonderful time at home. During the Spring Festival we visited many places. We had a get-together with many old friends.
- Susan: The Spring Festival is the most important holiday in China, isn't it?
- Li Ming: Yeah, in China, the Spring Festival is the most important holiday of the year.
- Susan: What do you usually do to celebrate this holiday?
- Li Ming: Two important things make this holiday different from all others: giving presents and staying with the family.
- Susan: Please tell me more about it.

- Li Ming: Giving presents to family members is a very nice custom. The spirit behind the present matters most, not the present itself.
- Susan: Right, it is nice to receive a present.
- Li Ming: It is good to return to the family home at the Spring Festival and meet parents, grandparents and as many aunts, uncles and cousins as possible.
- Susan: That's a good opportunity for family reunion.
- Li Ming: Yeah, in the past, on New Year's Eve, family members will stay at home making dumplings together. Many people enjoy watching the CCTV Spring Festival Gala. The evening is usually spent watching TV, playing games, talking, eating and drinking.
- Susan: You must have had a lot of fun.
- Li Ming: Yes, that's why I always enjoy the Spring Festival.

B

Organise a speaking activity based on the listening material. Students may have their own experiences about the Spring Festival. Ask them to discuss whether they agree with what Li Ming said. Encourage them to express different ideas.

4. A quiz

This quiz is just for fun. Remind students that we should not be superstitious and do's and don'ts during the Spring Festival are only parts of our traditions and customs. We should hold a right attitude towards them.

Ask students to do the exercise first based on their own understanding and then compare their answers with their partners'. They may discuss them if necessary. When they finish, you may explain the answers.

Answers

		Good luck	Bad luck
1	Bathing in pomelo leaves on New Year's Eve	√	
2	Buying a pair of shoes		√
3	Eating fish on New Year's Eve	√	
4	Eating sweets	√	
5	Getting a haircut in the first lunar month		√
6	Having the house cleaned from top to bottom before the Spring Festival	√	
7	Opening windows or doors	√	
8	Sweeping the floor on the first day of the Spring Festival		√
9	Talking about death		√
10	Wearing clothes in black and white		√

Reading A

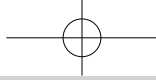
1. Pre-reading tasks

Read the instructions in class. Divide students into pairs. Ask them to do the role-play according to the instructions. They may find it difficult to describe the traditions in the Spring Festival. Encourage them to take notes of the difficulties and try to find out the answers in the text.

2. Reading comprehension

→ A ←

Students read the article and think about the questions. They may discuss these questions in pairs. Remind students to highlight or underline the important information in the article. Check the answers when they finish.



Answers

1. It originated in the Shang Dynasty from people's sacrifice to gods and ancestors at the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one.
2. People offer sacrifice to the Kitchen God.
3. Because in Chinese the reversed *fu* is similar to “*fu* comes”, both being pronounced as *fudaole*.
4. The meal is more luxurious than usual. Dishes such as chicken, fish and bean curd cannot be excluded
5. Waking up on New Year's Day, people extend greetings to their parents.
6. Because *jiaozi* in sound means “bidding farewell to the old and ushering in the new”. Also, the shape of the dumpling is like gold ingot from ancient China. So people eat them and wish for money and treasure.
7. Because people think the spluttering sound could help drive away evil spirits.
8. On the Lantern Festival, people will appreciate decorative lanterns and guess lantern riddles. Besides entertainment and lanterns, people will eat *yuanxiao*.

◆ B ◆

Ask students to find out the information in the article. Check their work when they finish.

Answers

Spring Festival couplets: to add an atmosphere of rejoicing and festivity, expressing house owners' wishes for a bright future and good luck for the New Year

Chinese paper cuttings: to express auspicious meanings

pictures of door gods: to ward off evil spirits and welcome peace and abundance

chicken: auspiciousness

fish: abundance

bean curd: richness

niangao: higher and higher, one year after another

C

Read the instructions in class. Divide students into groups of four. Ask them to discuss these questions. Get feedback when they finish.

Background information

1. Gregorian calendar 格列高利历

The Gregorian calendar, also called the Western calendar and the Christian calendar, is internationally the most widely accepted and used civil calendar. It has been the unofficial global standard for decades, recognised by international institutions such as the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union.

The calendar was a reform in 1582 to the Julian calendar. The motivation for the reform was to bring the date for the celebration of Easter to the time of the year in which the First Council of Nicaea had agreed upon in 325.

The Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar. A regular Gregorian year consists of 365 days and in a leap year, an intercalary or leap day is added as February 29 making the year 366 days. Normally a leap year occurs every four years, but the Gregorian calendar omits three leap days every 400 years, unlike the Julian calendar, which retains those leap days.

2. Shang Dynasty (1600–1046 BC) 商朝

According to traditional historiography, the Shang Dynasty ruled in the Yellow River valley in the second millennium BC, succeeding the Xia Dynasty (2070–1600 BC) and followed by the Zhou Dynasty (1046–256 BC). The classic account of the Shang comes from texts such as *Classic of History* (《尚书》), *Bamboo Annals* (《竹书纪年》) and *Records of the Grand Historian* (《史记》).

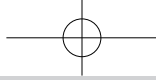
Language points

1. abundance

n. a large quantity of something

e.g. They planted flowers in great abundance in this area.

At the party there was food and drink in abundance.



2. auspicious

adj. likely to be successful

e.g. The publication of my first book was an auspicious beginning of my career.

3. bid

v. to utter (a greeting or farewell) to

e.g. He bade me good morning as he passed.

This is a chance to bid farewell to their president and welcome the new man.

4. lunar

adj. relating to the moon

e.g. The studies of the lunar surface have achieved interesting results.

5. paste

v. to stick paper to a surface using glue

e.g. A notice has been pasted to the door.

She pasted the pictures into a scrapbook.

6. permeate *v.*

1) to spread throughout something; to pervade

e.g. The smell permeated the house.

2) to be present in every part and have an effect on all of it

e.g. The banquet was permeated with an atmosphere of friendship.

7. reverse

v. to change round the usual order of the parts of something

e.g. The image on the screen was reversed and upside down.

8. usher in

to be the start of something new

e.g. The discovery of oil ushered in an era of employment and prosperity.

9. ward off

to do something to prevent something bad, such as illness, danger, or attack from harming you

e.g. She carried a knife to ward off attacks.

Sentence structure

1. The character put on paper can be pasted normally or upside down, for in Chinese the reversed *fu* is similar to “*fu* comes”, both being pronounced as *fudaole*. (Para. 8)

印在纸上的这个字可以正着贴，也可以倒着贴，因为在汉语中，“福倒了”和“福到了”同音，它们的读音都是 *fudaole*。

put on paper中的put为过去分词，作后置定语，修饰the character。另外，for连接并列分句，表示解释或说明。

e.g. The days are short, for it is now December.

白天短了，因为现在已经是12月了。

It must have rained, for the ground is wet.

之前一定下过雨，因为地是湿的。

2. People attach great importance to New Year's Eve. (Para. 9)

人们非常重视除夕夜。

attach importance to sth. 重视……，给予……重视

e.g. The old man didn't seem to attach any importance to the question.

这位老人似乎一点也不重视这个问题。

More and more people attach importance to reducing greenhouse gas emission.

越来越多的人开始重视减少温室气体排放。

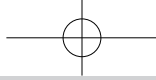
Chinese version 中国春节

正如西方的圣诞节一样，对于中国人来说，春节是最重要的节日并已然成为家人团聚的重要时刻。所有远离家乡的人都会回家，而春节也成为交通运输系统最为繁忙的时间。

春节恰逢正月初一，通常要比阳历晚一个月。它起源于商朝（约公元前1600年—公元前1046年）时人们在年末岁初对神和祖先的献祭。

春节有很多习俗。其中一些习俗沿用至今，有些习俗则逐渐弱化。

在腊月初八这一天，很多家庭都会做腊八粥，这是一种至少由八种谷物蔬果做成



的美味可口的粥。

腊月23日叫做小年。在这一天，人们要准备祭品祭祀灶神。然而现在，多数家庭都只是做顿美味佳肴，犒劳一下自己。过了小年，人们就开始为即将到来的新年作准备了，这就是所谓的“迎新年”。

在新年到来之前，人们要将屋里屋外彻底打扫一遍，还要清洗衣服、床单和各种器皿。

然后人们装饰打扫一新的房子，营造欢乐的气氛。所有的门上都会贴上春联，红纸黑字的中国书法异常显眼。春联的内容根据主人对美好未来的憧憬以及对来年好运的期盼而有所变化。同样，前门上还会贴上门神与财神来辟邪和迎接平安与富足。

汉语的“福”字（意味着祝福、幸福）是必不可少的。印在纸上的这个字可以正着贴也可以倒着贴，因为在汉语中，“福倒了”和“福到了”同音，它们的读音都是 *fúdaole*。此外，可以将两个大红灯笼挂在前门两边。窗户玻璃上可以贴上红色的剪纸，墙壁上也可以贴上颜色鲜艳、内容吉祥的年画。

人们非常重视除夕夜。这天晚上，所有的家庭成员一起吃晚饭。这顿饭比起以往要更丰盛。像鸡、鱼和豆腐这些菜是必不可少的，因为它们的中文发音分别是 *ji*、*yu* 和 *doufu*，寓意为吉祥、充裕和富有。饭后，全家人会坐在一起，聊天、看电视。近年来，中国中央电视台（CCTV）播出的春节联欢晚会已经成为国内外中国人必不可少的娱乐节目。根据习俗，每个家庭都会熬夜迎接新的一年的到来。

在初一早上醒来，每个人都会精心打扮。首先，他们会给父母拜年。然后每个孩子将会得到包在红纸里的压岁钱作为新年礼物。中国北方人早餐会吃饺子，因为他们认为“饺子”听起来意味着“辞旧迎新”。此外，饺子的形状像古代中国的金元宝，所以人们吃饺子期盼获得金钱和财富。中国南方人在这一场合下会吃年糕（用糯米粉做成），因为年糕意味着“年复一年，步步高升”。

放鞭炮是春节最典型的风俗。人们认为噼里啪啦的声音能够辟邪。然而，因为政府考虑到安全、噪音以及污染等因素，现在在大城市里，放鞭炮有特定区域和指定时间段的限制。

热闹的气氛不仅充溢着每家每户，还遍布街头巷尾。一系列的活动像舞狮、龙灯舞和庙会将举办好多天。

正月十五日的元宵节标志着春节的最后一天。这一天，人们可以观赏到装饰一新的花灯。猜灯谜也是元宵节不可或缺的活动。除了娱乐活动和欣赏花灯，元宵节另外一个重要的部分就是吃元宵。元宵是圆形的，象征着合家团圆。

3. Vocabulary and structure

This part is about some vocabulary and structure exercises related to the text. Ask students to finish them independently beforehand. Check their answers in class. Give some explanations if necessary.

A

Answers

1. to go with
2. very pleasant to taste or smell
3. to do something to prevent something such as an illness, danger, or attack from harming you
4. something that you must do or must have
5. extremely comfortable, elegant, or enjoyable, especially in a way that involves great expense
6. to not go to bed at the time you would normally do
7. to make a very loud noise
8. extremely important and necessary

B

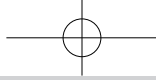
Answers

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. auspicious | 2. rejoicing | 3. ushered | 4. sacrifice |
| 5. permeated | 6. bid | 7. abundance | 8. paste |

C

Answers

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. playing; played | 2. made; making | 3. writing; written |
| 4. bought; buying | 5. breaking; broken | |



4. Writing

Read the instructions in class. Leave the writing task as homework. Check their work next time.

Language in use

1. Test your grammar

The aim of this practice is to make students aware of the present participles used as adverbials. Based on their study of the text, students may gain deeper understanding by doing the exercises.

Answers

In the two sentences, present participles are used as adverbials. The same meaning can be expressed by writing the sentences into a complex sentence or a group of sentences.

2. Grammar development: Present participles used as adverbials

Briefly explain the grammatical knowledge of participles. Then ask students to finish these exercises. Check their work when they finish.

—————♦ A ♦—————

Answers

1. Seeing the door open, the stranger entered the house.
2. Being athletic, Tom found the climb quite easy.
3. Running for the bus, I tripped and fell.
4. Asking a question, we should get an answer.
5. Although living miles away, he attended the course.

—————◆ B ◆—————

Answers

1. As it is Sunday, I shall have a quiet day at home.
2. Entering the house, he closed the door with a bang.
3. Walking through the park, we saw a lovely show of flowers.
4. Standing on the top of the church tower, we could see the whole village.
5. As I was waiting for a bus, a brick fell on my head.
6. As he had been away from his hometown for more than thirty years, no one recognised him.
7. Climbing to the top of the hill, one sees a magnificent view.

—————◆ C ◆—————

Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. thinking, not to leave | 2. Hearing | 3. Having had |
| 4. being | 5. Entering, covered | 6. Having promised |

3. Vocabulary building: Word pairs

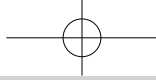
This activity is designed to get students familiar with a language area that is slightly more complex than it looks. These word pairs, also known as binomials, refer to a pair or group of words that are used together as an idiomatic expression or collocation, usually joined by the words *and*, *or*, and the order of the elements cannot be changed. The expression *take it or leave it* is an example of binomial pair. A binomial pair has a single, distinctive meaning.

Explain this grammatical phenomenon with examples. The first three examples of word pairs are easy to explain. *Touch and go* refers to a situation with an uncertain result.

—————◆ A ◆—————

Answers

1. f 2. c 3. g 4. e 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. h



——→ **B** ←——

Answers

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. more or less | 2. odds and ends | 3. back to front | 4. ins and outs |
| 5. wait and see | 6. grin and bear it | 7. pros and cons | 8. by and large |

——→ **C** ←——

This exercise is designed to help students enlarge their vocabulary. Ask them to remember these set phrases.

Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| now and then | to and fro | safe and sound |
| sooner or later | slowly but surely | law and order |

Reading B

1. Pre-reading tasks

Read the questions in class. Ask students to think about them and then work in pairs to discuss these questions. When they finish, ask some volunteers to report to the whole class.

2. Reading comprehension

- Ask students to read the material by themselves and finish the reading comprehension questions. They may refer to a dictionary if necessary.
- Check the answers with students. Provide explanations if necessary.
- Touch upon the important expressions and grammar points in the text according to students' needs.

◆ A ◆

Possible answers

1. The colour red is fresh and pure and Chinese people are fascinated by the colour. They have a special feeling for it and red has become a national symbol.
2. It's not only because of its intoxicating liveliness, but also because of its rich meaning in Chinese culture and history.
3. In the past, red stood for dignity and mystery.
4. People will set off red firecrackers, paste red couplets on door frames and Chinese red paper cuttings on windows, hang and light red lanterns at night, and give out red envelopes to kids.
5. Red candles create a cozy and warm environment, and red Double Happiness characters are pasted on doors and walls. Red invitation cards are sent and guests present red envelopes. The wedding bed is covered with red bed sheets and red quilts. The couple walks down a red carpet, strewn with red flowers.
6. The bride wears the Western white wedding gown for the ceremony, and then she changes into something red for the reception.

◆ B ◆

Organise a discussion activity. Divide students into groups of four. Ask each group to discuss these questions and prepare for a presentation. You may give them five minutes. When time is up, ask each group to choose a representative to report to the class. Give comments or feedback when necessary.

Background information

1. Chinese knot 中国结

Chinese knot or Chinese traditional decorating knot is a kind of characteristic folk decorations of handicraft art. Chinese knot has now become a kind of elegant and colourful arts and crafts from its original practical use.

The characteristic of Chinese knot is that every knot is made of a single rope and named by its specific form and meaning. By combining different knots or other auspicious adornments skillfully, a unique auspicious ornament which

represents beauty, idea and wishes is formed.

2. Double Happiness 双喜

A symbol of Double Happiness is something that cannot be missed during a Chinese wedding—whether it may be a traditional one or among those which have a more contemporary set-up.

It is usually printed on the invitation. The symbol of Double Happiness is a declaration that the bride-to-be and the groom-to-be will be united. The symbol, which is composed of two standard Chinese characters used to signify “happiness”, means that the couple and their families will now be “together”.

Language points

1. adopt v.

- 1) to start to use a particular method or plan for dealing with something
e.g. The schools must adopt new methods of teaching foreign languages.
- 2) to legally make another person's child part of your family
e.g. Many childless couples adopt children.

2. adore

v. to love intensely

e.g. As a child, I adored fairy tales.

She adores her grandchildren and is always buying them presents.

3. ceremony

n. a formal event performed on a special occasion

e.g. A ceremony is held every year to remember those who died in the war.

After the wedding ceremony we went to a reception at the bride's parents' house.

4. dignity

n. the quality of being worthy of esteem or respect

e.g. Patients should be allowed to die with dignity.

She lost her home and all her money, but she never lost her dignity.

5. eternal

adj. continuing forever or indefinitely

e.g. Church members express a belief in eternal life after death.

6. fascinate

v. to attract and delight by arousing interest or curiosity

e.g. The idea of travelling fascinates me.

The child was fascinated by the story.

7. harmony

n. the pleasant effect made by different things that form an attractive whole

e.g. I do believe it is possible for different ethnic groups to live together in harmony.

We sat down and talked in an effort to restore family harmony.

8. prosperity

n. an economic state of growth with rising profits and full employment

e.g. The chemical industry makes a crucial contribution to our health and prosperity and to protection of the environment.

They had the opportunity to make up for this loss by sharing in 40 years of prosperity under a democratic system.

9. signify

v. to represent, mean, or be a sign of something

e.g. The image of the lion signified power and strength.

Hamilton waved his hand to signify that he didn't mind what they decided.

Sentence structure

1. **It is believed that no country in the world has ever adopted a colour in such a thorough way as China, where red is a symbol that gives colour to the soul of the nation. (Para. 2)**

人们相信世界上没有一个国家像中国这样如此彻底地使用一种颜色：在这里红色作为一种象征，已经侵染了这个民族的灵魂。

这句话的结构比较复杂，首先要注意主句是it is believed that...，意为“人们普遍这样认为”。还要注意such...as...结构，表示“像……一样……”，后面是where引导的非限制性定语从句，修饰China，其中还有一个that引导的定语从句，修饰symbol。

2. **Only in its relation with people can the colour be alive and meaningful. (Para. 3)**

这种颜色只有在与人们密切的联系中才体现出它的活力与意义。

这是一个倒装结构，由only引导某个成分，加以强调。主句要用倒装语序，助动词提到主语之前。

e.g. Only when the war was over was he able to get back to work.

只有战争结束时，他才得以回去工作。

Only after a bitter struggle was the aim achieved.

只有经过艰苦的斗争，才能达到这个目的。

Chinese version 为什么中国人喜欢红色？

在颜色的世界里，红色最为出彩。红色是鲜艳的、纯洁的，在中国我们称之为“中国红”。中国人喜欢红色不仅仅因为它颜色鲜艳，更由于它在中国的文化与历史中具有丰富的内涵。

人们相信世界上没有一个国家像中国这样如此彻底地使用一种颜色：红色作为一种象征，已经侵染了这个民族的灵魂。在过去，红色代表着尊严和神秘。即使是现在，我们依然崇拜这种颜色。可以说中国红对于中国来说是一个永恒的主题，对于中国人来说也是一种不可或缺的颜色。中国红也因此成为一个十分流行的词，并吸引着全世界的目光。

在中国要拍摄红色的东西很容易，因为到处都可以看到它的存在。所有传统的红色东西在中国一直扮演着特殊的角色：古代宫殿的墙壁、国旗、中国结、灯笼、对联、衣服、用于装饰窗户的传统剪纸，甚至是糖葫芦（插在木棒上裹着糖衣的山楂）。红色是幸运色，象征着团圆、健康、幸福、和谐、和平与繁荣。只有真实的事物和事件才可以充分展示并阐释它的美丽，这种颜色只有在与人们密切的联系中才体现出它的活力与意义。

感受中国红魅力的最佳方式是春节期间待在中国或是参加中国婚礼。为了庆祝中国最重要的节日——春节，人们会燃放红色鞭炮，在门框上贴上红色对联，在窗户上贴上红色剪纸，晚上会挂上明亮的红灯笼并给孩子们红包。

与在许多西方国家中十分流行，特别是婚纱所使用的白色相比，中国婚礼的特点是大多采用红色，蕴含着确保夫妇拥有幸福未来的美好寓意。在中国传统的婚礼上，你会发现到处都是红色。红蜡烛营造出一种舒适温馨的环境。门上墙上都贴着红双喜字。红色请柬会发给客人，客人也会送给新人红包。婚礼床上罩着红色的床单，铺着红色的棉被。新人会走上撒满红色花瓣的红地毯。即使在现代的婚礼上，新娘可能会穿上西方的白色婚纱，但是在接待酒宴上，换上红色的衣服仍然是一种习俗。

在中国，红色不仅仅是一种颜色，它承载着中华民族古老的历史与文化。中国红充满着无法形容的神秘魅力。它就在这里，在中国等着你去感受、去发现！

3. Vocabulary and grammar

————◆ A ◆————

Answers

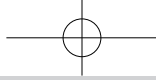
1. c 2. e 3. d 4. b 5. g 6. h 7. a 8. f

————◆ B ◆————

Answers

The colour can be alive and meaningful only in its relation with people.

1. In no other way could the matter be explained.



2. Hardly had we started when it began to rain.
3. Seldom have I heard such beautiful singing.
4. Never shall I forget your kindness.
5. No sooner had we left the house than it exploded.
6. Not till he got home did he realise that he had lost the key.
7. Not only did they rob you, they smashed everything.



Answers

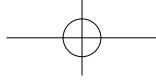
1. His height makes him stand out in the crowd.
2. The schools must adopt new methods of teaching foreign languages.
3. It is believed that he is fit for the position.
4. Please signify agreement by raising your hands.
5. I'll be back as soon as I give out these forms.

Project

This project is designed to help students plan a Chinese New Year party and explain traditional Chinese customs to foreigners. Read and explain the instructions and then ask students to do the class activities following the steps given. This project should be conducted in a relaxed and lively atmosphere. Encourage students to be active. Get feedback when they finish. Invite volunteers to report to the class their thoughts and experiences.

Culture tips

There are many customs and traditions related to the New Year. This short passage



introduces some don'ts which are believed to signify bad luck for the New Year. Ask students to read the passage. Then ask for their opinions on the points listed in the passage.

Learning to learn

Confidence plays an important role in students' learning. This part will guide students to build up their confidence by using some tips. Ask students to read the tips and discuss in groups. They may express their agreement or disagreement on the listed points. Summarise the feedback from students.