

In-text Grammar

We use the **passive voice** to highlight a person or a thing that is affected by an action, rather than the one that performs the action. In a passive sentence, the receiver of the action becomes the subject. We use **'be'** and a **past participle** to form a sentence in the **passive voice**.

e.g. We eat rice cakes at Chinese New Year. (Active)

Rice cakes **are eaten** at Chinese New Year. (Passive)

Doris is reading some comments in an online forum.

www.interestingtaboos.com.hk

CNY Taboos

As I know, Chinese New Year is more than just a festive time for families, friends and fun. There are lots of things the Chinese wouldn't do during the festival so as to stay away from misfortunes. I know one of them: Never sweep the dust out of the house from the front door because Chinese people believe that it means sweeping away good luck. How funny!

by Pete 10:20

Cleaning is avoided during Chinese New Year. As a traditional Chinese, I usually spend a whole day doing an entire clean-up of the house before Lunar New Year. It means getting rid of bad luck from the previous year.

by Betty 11:40

Luck is very important in Chinese beliefs. You may see a lot of cheerful decorations in the colours of gold and red during Chinese New Year as they symbolise wealth and luck. Also, **inauspicious** words, such as 'break', 'die', 'gone' and 'poor', are never allowed to be spoken during the festival.

by Smith 13:01

Today's young Chinese, including me, may not follow some of the customs now, but I still find them fascinating. I am always told not to break anything during Chinese New Year. Even when I am eating fish, I should be careful of not breaking any fishbones!

by Dave 15:22

Choose the best answers by blackening the circles.

1. From the online forum, Doris does **NOT** know _____.

- A. the discussion topic
 B. the posting dates of the comments
 C. the posting time of the comments
 D. the usernames of the people who left comments

2. In the online forum, the word '**inauspicious**' means '_____'.
 A. polite
 B. fortunate
 C. illegal
 D. unfortunate

skill 3. Which is **TRUE** about the online forum? (Choose more than one answer.)

- A. Both Pete and Dave think some CNY taboos are interesting.
 B. Both Betty and Dave are Chinese.
 C. Both Smith and Dave break with the CNY traditions.
 D. Both Pete and Betty talk about cleaning before CNY.



Q1

Skim through the online forum and eliminate the options that the forum contains first.



Q2

Look at the examples given after the word and the main idea of Smith's comments.

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

4. Why do Chinese people do the big clean-up before Chinese New Year?

It is because they want to _____

_____.

5. Why do the colours gold and red always appear during Chinese New Year?

It is because _____.

Fill in each blank with **ONE** word from the online forum. Change the word form when necessary.

4th February, 20XX

Sunny

I learnt some interesting taboos about Chinese New Year. I am surprised as I have never heard of them before. For example, we shouldn't tell ghost stories because they may bring us ⑥ _____ (n.) in the coming year. Although some people nowadays don't follow the Chinese New Year ⑦ _____ (n.) any more and regard them as superstitions, I really enjoy learning about them!