

# Chinese New Year Traditions<sup>1</sup>



Chinese New Year is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar. When we celebrate with our family, we can learn some traditions of Chinese New Year.

We should avoid<sup>2</sup> buying books or shoes during Chinese New Year.

In Cantonese, the word for 'books' sounds like the word for 'lose'. Also, the word for 'shoes' sounds like the word for 'sigh'<sup>3</sup>.

At Chinese New Year, we wish for prosperity<sup>4</sup> so we should not say or do anything negative.



## Vocabulary

1. tradition 傳統 2. avoid 避免 3. sigh 嘆氣 4. prosperity 繁榮 5. auspicious 吉利 6. pricing 定價 7. nowadays 現在 8. note 紙幣  
9. depend on 取決於 10. close 親密的 11. Tray of Togetherness 全盒 12. compartment 間隔



## Learn Fun Facts about Money!

### Positive = Good luck

Chinese people believe that '8' is a very **auspicious<sup>5</sup>** number. It sounds like the word for 'prosperity' in Cantonese so people often use 'eight' in **pricing<sup>6</sup>**.

### How to talk about prices in English?

\$0.8 is regarded as **eighty cents** instead of eight cents. When we read, we often omit the word 'cents'. E.g. \$88.8 is read as 'eighty-eight dollars eighty'.

e.g.



eighty cents

Children are given red packets by adults at Chinese New Year.

Nowadays<sup>7</sup>, people usually put notes<sup>8</sup> from ten to one hundred dollars in the red packets. It depends on<sup>9</sup> how close<sup>10</sup> the child and the giver are. Chinese people believe that the colour red means 'luck'.



Chinese people put a candy box called the **Tray of Togetherness<sup>11</sup>** at home with a lot of different candies and sugared fruit. The tray often has six or eight **compartments<sup>12</sup>**.

