

Lesson Ten Oral Practice

1. Talk about the tradition of Chinese Spring Festival.

- A. 德生, why has everyplace been thoroughly cleaned and decorated beautifully?
- B. That is because Spring Festival is coming, and all Chinese families are making preparations for the New Year.
- A. What is Spring Festival? Could you please tell me?
- B. According to the Lunar Calendar, Spring Festival is New Year -- the ancient and the most exciting holiday.
- A. Why do people call it as Spring Festival?
- B. According to the Lunar Calendar way of calculating, it is the beginning of a year and spring as well, so people call it as Spring Festival.
- A. During Spring Festival, do Chinese have any traditional customs and habits?
- B. Yes, they have many customs and habits. For instance, they paste New Year pictures and spring couplets on walls and doors, shoot off fireworks and pay New Year tribute, etc.
- A. I saw that the primary color of New Year pictures, spring couplets and fireworks is red. Why?
- B. To Chinese people, red symbolizes happiness.

2. Talk about how Chinese people celebrate Spring Festival.

- A. 海琳, would you please tell me how Chinese people celebrate Spring Festival?
- B. The first day of Spring Festival, people dress up and pay New Year tribute to their relatives and friends.
- A. What is "pay New Year tribute"?
- B. "Pay new year tribute" is to greet each other and celebrate the arrival of the New Year.
- A. What do they say to greet each other?
- B. They say "Congratulations!" and "Congratulations on making good fortune!".
- A. What else do they do in addition to "pay New Year tribute"?
- B. The kids get a red envelope when they pay New Year tribute to elders.
- A. What is the red envelope for?
- B. Inside the red envelope is money. The elders give the kids the red envelope with money inside to wish the kids to have a happy, healthy, and safe year, and to grow up fast.
- A. Sounds interesting. I wish I could get a red envelope during Christmas time.
- B. I will invite you to go to my home and celebrate next year's Spring Festival if you are still here.
- A. Yes, I would love to. Thanks. What do you eat on the holiday?
- B. We usually eat dumplings and New Year cake. Of course, there are some other delicious things.
- A. That would be great! You know I like dumplings very much. I look forward to the next year's Spring Festival.
- B. I will ask my mom to make dumplings and several authentic Chinese foods for you when you come next Spring Festival.

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