

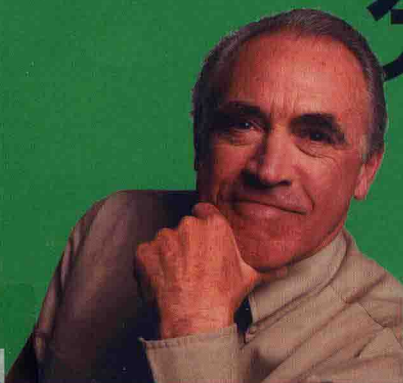


英语口语教材系列

分级阶梯突破 5 级

张淑芳 牛慧霞 主编

LEVEL UP! ORAL ENGLISH COURSE



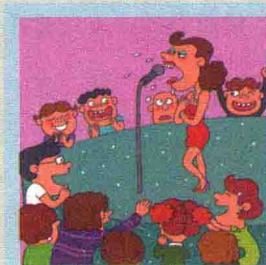
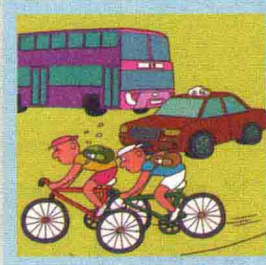
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- ★ 备考素材丰富实用

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英语口语教材系列

——分级阶梯突破 **5** 级



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前言



当今社会是全球一体化的社会，英文表达能力也因此显得尤为重要。能够通过英语口语等级考试，也成了一种证明自己能力的标准。近几年中，各种英语口语等级考试盛行。不论是升学还是求职，还是要去国外求学，能够拿出口语等级考试的证明，有时甚至会成为成功的关键。

《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》是一套针对口语考试编写的实用教材，共9册。该套教材体现了由易及难、由简单到复杂、由单项到综合的教与学原则，采用话题、功能相结合的实用编写方式。其中，《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》1~3册专注于考生兴趣的激发和口语基础的奠定，内容活泼、风趣，每个单元由热身练习、句型银行、实战演练、动手模仿、语音贴士、词汇加油站等组成，引导小读者进入一个快乐的英语语言王国。

《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》4~6册，在1~3册的基础上，增加了问题集锦、补充阅读和图画式的思维导图，力图帮助考生建立英语思维，同时通过大量的阅读信息输入，使已经具有一定口语基础的考生，能够较为自如地应对考官的提问，并且能熟练地对自己感兴趣的话题进行充分的阐述。其书后的附录也是不可或缺的资源，充分体现了语言输入和输出相结合的语言习得理论。

对于更高级别的读者，《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》7~9册无疑提供了一个快乐的学习之旅。该分册侧重英语思维习惯的培养，以及不同领域知识的拓展，每一单元适量增加了与考官互动和思维线路这两个颇具特色的环节，以帮助考生主导和考官的谈话，并建立起完整的话题思维体系；同时，针对各个单元设计了各种各样的问题集锦，并提供了详细的参考答案，一方面大大丰富了考生的口语素材，另一方面又不断拓展了考生对诸如科技、人文、环保、生物等陌生领域的知识。而每一单元所增加的语言功能和语法功能讲解和练习也适当弥补了学生书面英语的欠缺。

《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》适用于不同水平的英文学习者，能够系统而有效地帮助读者应对口语等级考试。目前，三一英语口语等级考试（GESE）在国内非常热门，从小学生到中学生都积极参与这个考试，这套教材非常适用于这个考试。三一英语口语等级考

试 (GESE) 官方网站对该考试有比较详细的介绍:

自1999年北京教育考试院与伦敦三一学院合作引进三一英语口语等级考试 (GESE) 以来, 英语口语等级考试及证书越来越多地受到社会的关注和广大英语爱好者的青睐, 甚至还成为诸多重点中学的敲门砖。

GESE考试凭借一对一的交流平台, 通过指定话题、自选话题的交流方式, 使考生在真实体验英语交流的场景下, 充分了解自己的英语水平, 逐步提高英语学习的兴趣, 树立学习英语的信心。这种极具个性化、交流式的考试模式, 使得大批英语学习者, 尤其是少儿英语学习者对于英语口语, 从单纯模仿、背诵逐渐转变为真实自然的情感交流, 从生硬的汉英直译思维逐渐过渡到用英语进行思维活动。

三一英语口语等级考试 (GESE) 共设立了12个级别的考试, 任何一个英语非母语的学习者都能在这一体系中找到适合自己的等级, 进行渐进式的训练。其纯粹口语的考试体系, 避免了学生在笔试上的不足, 更有利于学生兴趣的培养和信心的建立。通常来说, 三一口语1~5级比较适合小学阶段的学生学习, 6~7级较适合初中阶段的学生; 8~9级则适合更高阶段的学习者, 10级以上则比较适合英语口语已达到相当水平、接近母语为英语的语言学习者。

可见, 《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》这套书可作为三一英语口语等级考试 (GESE) 的实用性教材。对于其他的口语等级考试, 也能够作为有效的学习和练习帮手。

总而言之, 《英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破》处处彰显了编者的独具匠心。通过阅读和学习该套教材, 练习口语的锦囊妙计会向读者招手致意; 篇篇情景对话义理充实, 创意斐然, 定会使读者受益颇深; 补充阅读深邃又不乏风趣, 百读不厌, 又仿佛为读者打开了一个全新的英语世界; 深入浅出的图解则直观有效地在读者脑海里建立起英语思维的框架。

亲爱的读者朋友, 希望这套教材为你提供快乐的口语学习体验。但是一定要记住, Practice makes perfect. 有了这套练习口语的宝典, 还犹豫什么, 张开嘴, 我们期待着你的进步, 同时祝你考级顺利通关!

伦敦三一学院口语等级考试 (GESE) 5级描述

5级

考试时间: 10分钟

考试内容: 两部分: 自选话题讨论和对话

总体要求:

★能理解、熟悉话题中所述的要点

★参与对话, 就个人感兴趣或与日常生活相关的熟悉话题进行交流并陈述个人意见、看法

★具备一定的语言能力描述经历、发生的事情, 说明事情原因, 并能就意见、看法及计划作出说明解释



第一部分: 自选话题讨论

(5分钟)

考生就个人感兴趣的或任何一个熟悉的话题, 根据所考级别的要求, 自己事先进行准备。

自选话题不宜从第二部分的6个对话题目中选取。

话题内容应由考生自己准备, 不能机械背诵。考生要熟悉所谈话题, 理解含义, 语言正确, 恰当地表达个人观点。尽量选择与自己生活、经历有关的话题。考生在准备话题时, 可以预先考虑考官围绕话题可能提出的一些问题。

考生在自选话题部分, 应准备足以讨论5分钟的材料。考生可借助自带的画片、照片、图表、模型或实物进行讨论, 但不可将活的动物或昆虫带入考场; 更不允许携带刀具或其他利器等危险物品进入考场。

在第一部分, 所有5级考生都要向考官提问至少一个与自选话题相关的问题。

所有5级考生的自选话题部分必须填写《思维图表》(见附表), 并带入考场与考官进行讨论。

考官将从思维图表中按照任意顺序抽取所列的讲述点进行提问, 考生应具备从任何讲述点开始展开话题进行交流的能力。

《思维图表》中5级应准备5个讲述点。所填写的讲述点不能太笼统, 如: “Introduction to topic”, “Conclusion to topic”, “What I did next...”, 正确填法参见附表。

在5级考试中, 考官至少会问及思维图表中4个或4个以上的讲述点。

思维图表是5级第一部分考试的关键, 若事先未填写《思维图表》, 该部分考试将无法进行。考生若没有准备自选话题, 本部分不给成绩, 本次考试也就无法通过。



第二部分：对话

(5分钟)

考官从考生所选级别的对话题目中任选两个话题与考生进行谈论。在对话部分中，考官虽然只选两个话题与考生交谈，但该级别中列出的所有话题考生都需做充分准备。

考官也可能使用与日常生活相关的图片与考生展开讨论。这一部分的考试要求考生具有相应的语言能力，应能与考官开展真实有内容而又轻松的交流。

对话部分不过多地采用一问一答方式进行，要求考生尽量主动表述，尽可能引入所考级别要求的语言功能及语法项目。

在本部分中，5级考生应至少问考官1个与对话话题相关的问题。

5级 学习目标



针对考试第一部分：自选话题

- 正确理解考官的提问，回答切题
- 能就准备的话题连贯地用多个句子进行讲述
- 与考官就准备的话题进行轻松随意的讨论。讨论中考官可能要求考生进一步提供相关话题的信息、事实和细节
- 根据考官要求，就所述内容作进一步说明或解释
- 向考官提出至少一个与自选话题相关的问题
- 尽可能运用本级要求的语言功能



针对考试第二部分：对话

- 正确理解考官的提问，回答切题
- 按考官要求针对某些内容陈述原因或给予说明
- 向考官提出至少一个与对话话题相关的问题



使用说明 USERS GUIDE



Unit 1 Festivals 节日盛典

Part I Word Service Station 词汇加油站

| Spring Festival | Christmas Eve |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| celebration [sel'breɪʃən] n. 庆祝 | celebrate [sel'breɪt] v. 庆祝 |
| celebratory [sel'breɪtəri] a. 庆祝的 | celebrate [sel'breɪt] v. 庆祝 |
| beast [bi:st] n. 兽 | Christmas [kri'stməs] n. 圣诞节 |
| beverage [bevərɪdʒ] n. 饮料 | Christmas Eve [kri'stməs i:v] n. 圣诞夜 |
| blast [blɑ:st] n. 爆炸 | Christmas tree [kri'stməs tri:t] n. 圣诞树 |
| blast [blɑ:st] v. 爆炸 | Christmas tree [kri'stməs tri:t] n. 圣诞树 |
| blast [blɑ:st] v. 爆炸 | Christmas tree [kri'stməs tri:t] n. 圣诞树 |
| blast [blɑ:st] v. 爆炸 | Christmas tree [kri'stməs tri:t] n. 圣诞树 |
| blast [blɑ:st] v. 爆炸 | Christmas tree [kri'stməs tri:t] n. 圣诞树 |



第一步

Part I Word Service Station

看到生动有趣的画面，你有没有要加入进来的冲动呢？准备好，我们马上就要开始了哦！从词汇加油站开始，让我们信心满满，努力驶向成功的彼岸吧！



第二步

Part II lead-in Exercises

模拟情景对话，就个人熟悉的日常生活与考官进行简单的交谈，让你适应口语等级考试中所采用的问答形式，在考试中应答自如、脱颖而出！

Part II Lead-in Exercises 热身练习

1. Can you name some traditional Chinese festivals?

2. Certainly, since China is a country with long history, we have many traditional festivals here such as Spring Festival, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival.

3. Which festival is your favorite and why?

4. Well, I love Mid-Autumn Festival the best. Though in some people's eyes, it is not as important as the Spring Festival. It is celebrated in the best season in Beijing. My parents and I always come back to my grandparents' house for a visit on this festival. We will enjoy a big dinner for family reunion. Generally speaking, we can have all the happiness and at the same time we won't worry about the heavy traffic jams in the Spring Festival season.

5. Apart from Mid-Autumn Festival, can you introduce another Chinese traditional festival?

6. As Spring Festival is quite familiar with everyone, I would like to say something about Lantern Festival. Usually, lantern fairs will be held in many big cities for people to enjoy. People can take a walk together in the beautiful color of the night with their families or friends. There will also be some dragon dances, fireworks and lantern shows. In the lantern shows, you can enjoy various lanterns with variously designed lovely lantern fairs. Last Lantern Festival, a friend from Germany came to visit me. We got so excited when she saw all those lanterns since it's very hard to get lanterns in Germany, so we began to tell off lanterns near the fountain after we spent two hours on the difficult routes. It was so amazing that we didn't sleep until it was 12 at night.

7. Do you know anything about western festivals?

8. Yeah, of course. Many western festivals, such as Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, and April Fool's Day are very popular among the Chinese, especially among the youth. I like April Fool's Day because it could be interesting, we can often take this opportunity to play tricks on our friends.

9. Do young couples in China celebrate Valentine's Day?

10. Sure they do. In fact, Chinese young people will celebrate both Valentine's Day on February the 14th and Chinese Valentine, which's called Qixi or the Double Seventh Festival. They would send cards, chocolates, or flowers to each other, they will also do some interesting things together.

Part III Situational Talks 实战演练

Scene 1 This Year is Not That Year 今年非彼年

Rogan: I am so excited because New Year is coming.

Mary: "New Year" is Alan in Chinese, right?

Rogan: Right, but today's phrase meaning "Celebrate the New Year" probably came from the phrase "celebrate".

Mary: Really? What is the origin of Alan?

Rogan: The word Alan is originally the name of a monster that used to trouble people the night before the beginning of a new year.

Mary: I don't quite understand. Why do people put up red paper and set off fireworks to celebrate it?

Rogan: Well, one year an old man told people to set off fireworks and put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors to frighten Alan away. In this way Alan was conquered.

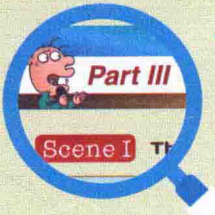
Mary: Oh, I see.

Rogan: People today feel the colour of red and the sound of fireworks add to the excitement of the celebration.

Mary: Yes, red is a colour of warmth, with the power to make people feel energetic and joyful.

注释：庆祝新年，拉开序幕。
 罗根：“新年”用中文是“新年”，对吧？
 玛丽：没错，不过新年“庆祝新年”这个词来源于“庆祝”这个词。
 罗根：“真”这个词最早出现在希腊人神话中。
 玛丽：真的吗？那这个词是怎么来的，它和新年有什么关系呢？
 罗根：据说有一年一个老人告诉人们燃放烟火和挂红色的纸来吓跑怪物，这样新年就顺利开始了。
 玛丽：哦，我明白了。
 罗根：人们现在觉得红色的颜色和火花的声响给庆祝活动增添了兴奋感。
 玛丽：对，红色属于暖色，具有让人精力充沛和开心的力量。

Notes: Alan Alan: 魔鬼“年” 2008.01. 练习、模仿



第三步

Part III Situational Talks

本书收录的会话内容全部结合实际情景，能协助学习者顺利应对口语等级考试。学了那么多有用的句型之后，赶紧投入到真实的情景演练中来吧！看看你的英文是不是更流利，表达是不是更地道！

Scene IV Dragon Boat Races in Memory of Qu Yuan 龙舟赛纪念屈原

Susan: A boat race is going to be held at Kunming Lake. Let's go and watch.
Peter: It looks so crowded across the lake. How excited everyone is! What are those boats called?
Susan: They are called dragon boats. This kind of boat race is held annually all over China.
Peter: It is a truly interesting race.
Susan: It has become a traditional festival.
Peter: So why do you have this tradition?
Susan: To remember the ancient patriotic poet, Qu Yuan. It is said that when he threw himself into the river, people tried to rescue him by rowing their boats out into the water.
Peter: Ah, yes, now I remember! I heard that Chinese people who live abroad organize their own dragon boat races every year.

龙舟 在屈原投江那天举行划船比赛，我们纪念他。
彼得 好像好多人参加了，大家都很高兴啊！那些参加比赛的对峙什么？
苏珊 它们叫做龙舟，中间会挂有彩旗和龙头龙尾。
彼得 那这种比赛已经成了一种传统。
苏珊 那么你们为什么会觉得很有趣呢？
彼得 是为了纪念爱国诗人屈原。据说屈原投江的时候，人们为了救他划着船出去。
彼得 噢，是的，我现在想起来了！我听说海外华人的龙舟赛也是每年都要举行的。



Notes a celebrated tradition 传统的庆祝活动

Part IV Read and Talk 我读我谈

Passage 1



Spring Festival

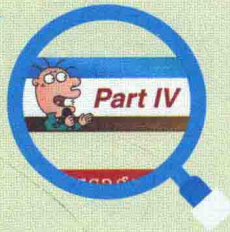
Similar to the importance of Christmas for Westerners, Spring Festival is the most important celebration for Chinese people. Although the meaning and the methods of celebration have changed with time, the importance of Spring Festival has not changed.

China's Spring Festival has a long history of nearly four thousand years. Initially, the festival had no name or fixed date. Before 1000 BC, people used the phrase "the year", meaning "Great Harvest" to refer to Spring Festival. According to the traditional custom, Spring Festival lasts from the 23rd day of the twelfth lunar month to the 15th day of the first lunar month, with the climax on New Year's Eve and the first day of the first lunar month.

There are many activities all over the country to welcome Spring Festival. In the countryside, these preparations start from the beginning of the twelfth lunar month. Every family cleans their house and wash their clothes and bed sheets. Making special New Year purchases is also an important part of the upcoming New Year. In the city, people celebrate the New Year with team performances and parties with a variety of entertainment. The big parks hold "temple fairs" to provide recreation, food and art.

There are different traditional customs in different parts of China, but every region has the same indispensable custom of the whole family having a reunion dinner together on New Year's Eve. In South China, the reunion dinner usually includes more than ten dishes, including bean curd and fish, because the pronunciation of these two dishes means "wealth" in the Chinese language. In North China, most reunion meals include dumplings, which are made and eaten by the whole family. Almost everyone will stay up late and set off fireworks on New Year's Eve.

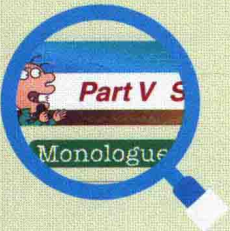
On the first day of the first lunar month, people put on special clothing for the festival and begin to go out to visit or stay at home to welcome visiting family, friends and loved ones. They greet each other with "Happy New Year" and "Happy Spring Festival" and invite guests to drink tea and chat at their home.



第四步

Part IV Read and Talk

课文过后，来享受一下阅读的乐趣吧！在这里，你可以放松自己，拓宽视野，遨游于知识的海洋。然后，思考一下课后的问题，进行头脑风暴！



第五步

Part V Show Me

欢迎来到开心秀场！学了其中的Monologue和Conversation，你有没有冲动要秀出自己的多彩生活，用英语疯狂地表达呢？让我们拭目以待！

Part V Show Me 开心秀场

Monologue

Differences Between Spring Festival and Christmas

Spring Festival and Christmas are both important festivals, one for Chinese people and the other for western people. Different cultures have developed different ways to celebrate these festivals.

Time: Spring Festival falls on the 1st day of the 1st lunar month. Strictly speaking, Spring Festival starts every year at the end of the twelfth lunar month and last till the middle of the first lunar month of the next year. During this time, the most important days are Spring Festival Eve and the first three days of the New Year. Today, everyone in China has seven days off for the Chinese Lunar New Year. The Spring Festival then comes to an end when the Lantern Festival is held.

Christmas Day is on December 25. People usually have two weeks for the holiday, beginning shortly before Christmas and ending soon after New Year.

History: Spring Festival originated in the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC-1100 BC), based on people's sacrificing to gods and ancestors at the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one. Although no one knows exactly when Jesus was born, Christians throughout the world celebrate his birthday on December 25. This date was selected in the fourth century as the Christmas would replace the pagan celebration of the winter solstice.

Home Decorations: In China, before the New Year comes, people clean their homes completely, both indoors and outdoors, as well as their clothes, bedsheets and all their utensils. Then people begin decorating their clean rooms to create an atmosphere of happiness and harmony. Every door will have Spring Festival couplets pasted up on each side.

Western people decorate their home with evergreens. The winter custom of decorating homes and churches with evergreens began in ancient times. Now at Christmas time decorated trees stand in about two-thirds of American homes. The modern American tree is usually covered with colored lights and strings of coloured lights. The star on top represents the star in the east which guided the three Wise Men to the infant Jesus.

Celebrations: In China, everyone who is living away from home goes back for a family reunion. Airports, railway stations and long-distance bus stations are crowded with people returning home. Spring Festival Eve is considered of great importance. On that evening, all family members have dinner together. After the dinner, the whole family will sit together, chatting and watching TV. In recent years, the CCTV Gala has become a must-see for Chinese both at home and abroad. According to custom, each family will stay up to see the New Year in. The first five days after the Spring Festival are a good time for relatives, friends and classmates as well as colleagues to exchange greetings and gifts and chat happily.

In western countries, many families go away for the holidays, perhaps to ski in Colorado or to swim and sunbathe in Florida. Those who stay home have fun, too. There are numerous parties to celebrate the festival. Many families go to church on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. After services, they gather

around the tree and open their gifts. Then they sit down to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner.

Festival Food: In China, on the Spring Festival Eve, the meal is more luxurious than usual. Dishes such as chicken, fish and bean curd cannot be excluded, for in Chinese these words, respectively 吉, 利 and 团圆, have the same pronunciation as the words that mean "auspiciousness", "abundance" and "harmony". People in northern China eat hot Jiaozi, or dumplings. Southern Chinese will eat Nian Gao in New Year (the cake made of glutinous rice flour), because Nian Gao means "every year still higher".

Christmas food includes turkey or hen, sweet potatoes, vegetables, and cranberry sauce. For dessert, there is usually halibut, plum pudding, or apple pie.

Spiritual Customs: Stating off fireworks was once the most common custom on Spring Festival. People thought the sound would help drive evil spirits away. A variety of activities, such as the dragon, lion dance, lantern festival and temple fairs, are held for days.

The American version of Santa Claus, a fat, jolly man with a red suit, a red hat and a long white beard who brings gifts and goodness at Christmas time, has also become popular in Canada, England and Australia.

Conversation

Man: Do you like to celebrate Spring Festival?
Alice: Yes, I love Spring Festival. I enjoy as much delicious food as I can.
Man: Do you get lucky money?
Alice: Of course. My parents and relatives give me money as a Spring Festival gift.
Man: How do you spend it?
Alice: Unfortunately, all the money I get I have to hand in to my mother.
Man: What do you do on this important occasion?
Alice: On the first day of the Spring Festival, my brother and I get up very early. Then we go out to call on my neighbors and give them New Year's greetings. In the evening, we always set off firecrackers.
Man: What else do you do during Spring Festival?
Alice: The Spring Festival is both a reunion and a long holiday. We can go on a trip or visit our friends or have parties with our family.

提醒: 在春节联欢晚会中，你可以欣赏到精彩的舞蹈、相声、魔术等表演。
小贴士: 在除夕夜，家家户户都会挂上灯笼和春联。
注意: 在春节期间，很多地方都会燃放烟花爆竹。
注意: 大年三十，家家户户都会吃年夜饭。
注意: 春节期间，很多地方都会举行庙会。
注意: 春节期间，很多地方都会举行灯会。
注意: 春节期间，很多地方都会举行舞龙舞狮表演。

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英语口语教材系列——分级阶梯突破 5级

Unit 1 Festivals 节日盛典

Unit 2 Entertainment 娱乐无极限

Unit 3 Means of Transportation 交通方式

Unit 4 Celebrations 重大或特殊的活动

Unit 5 Music 音乐之声

Unit 6 What Have You Been Doing Recently

近期经历

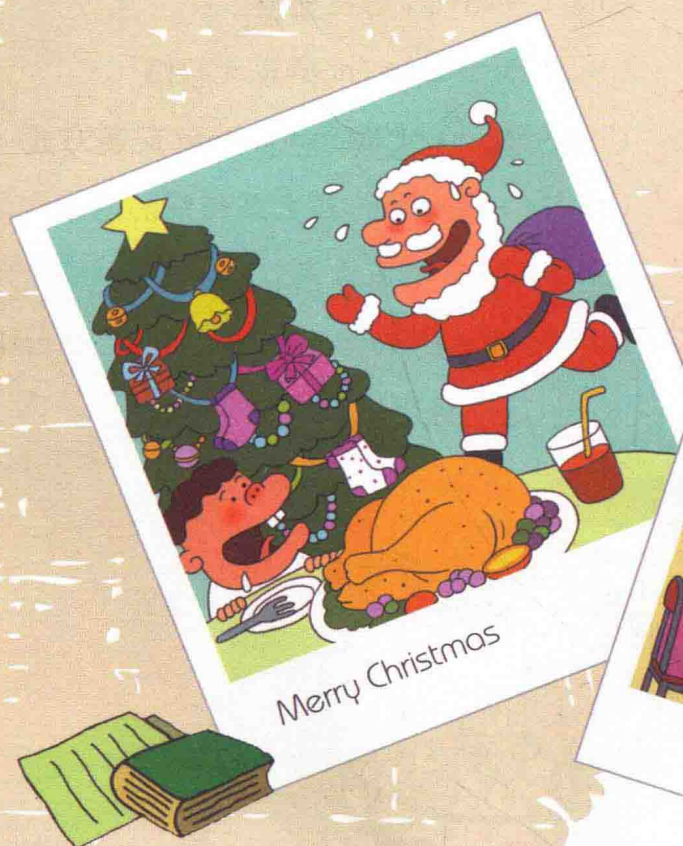
Unit 1

Festivals 节日盛典



Part I Word Service Station

词语加油站





Spring Festival

- celebration** [ˌselɪˈbreɪʃn] *n.* 庆祝
- decoration** [ˌdekəˈreɪʃn] *n.* 装饰
- feast** [fiːst] *n.* 盛宴
- firecracker** [ˈfaɪəkrækə] *n.* 烟花, 爆竹
- firework** [ˈfaɪəwɜ:k] *n.* 烟花, 爆竹
- goodwill** [ɡudˈwɪl] *n.* 良好祝愿
- luxury** [ˈlʌkʃəri] *n.* 奢侈
- lunar** [ˈluːnə] *n.* 阴历
- reservation** [ˌrezəˈveɪʃn] *n.* 预定, 预约
- do Spring Festival shopping** 买年货
- family reunion dinner** 团圆饭
- lion (dragon) dance** 舞龙狮
- New Year cake** 年糕
- offer sacrifices to one's ancestors** 祭祖宗
- outings and picnics** 郊游和野餐
- paper-cuts** 剪纸
- pay New Year's call; give New Year's greetings;**
- New Year's visit** 拜年
- propose a toast** 敬酒
- red packets; red envelopes; gift money** 红包, 压岁钱
- riddles written on lanterns** 灯谜
- New Year's Eve dinner** 年夜饭
- variety show** 杂耍

Christmas Eve

- anthem** [ˈænthəm] *n.* 赞美诗; 圣歌
- carol** [ˈkærəl] *n.* 赞美诗; 圣歌
- Christian** [ˈkrɪstjən] *adj.* 基督教的 *n.* 基督教徒
- church** [tʃɜ:tʃ] *n.* 教堂
- cranberry** [ˈkrænbəri] *n.* 越橘, 小红莓
- derive** [dɪˈraɪv] *from* 来自, *源于*
- fragrant** [ˈfreɪgrənt] *adj.* 香的
- mandarin** [ˈmændərɪn] *n.* 柑橘
- Massachusetts** [ˌmæsəˈtʃu:sɪts] *n.* 马萨诸塞
- pilgrim** [ˈpɪlgrɪm] *n.* 朝圣者
- pumpkin** [ˈpʌmpkɪn] *n.* 南瓜
- routine** [ruːˈtiːn] *n.* 惯例
- salvation** [sælˈveɪʃn] *n.* 救赎
- symbol** [ˈsɪmbəl] *n.* 象征
- thankful** [ˈθæŋkfl] *adj.* 感激的
- turkey** [ˈtɜ:kɪ] *n.* 火鸡
- unchristian** [ˌʌnˈkrɪstjən] *adj.* 非基督教的; 不慈善的
- wasteful** [ˈweɪstfl] *adj.* 浪费的
- in the name of** 以……的名义
- roast** [rəʊst] **turkey with stuffing** [ˈstʌfɪŋ] 放好填料的烤火鸡
- Santa** [ˈsæntə] **Claus** [klaʊz]; **Father Christmas** 圣诞老人
- settle down** 定居
- the Bible** 圣经



T: Can you name some traditional Chinese festivals?



S: Certainly, since China is a country with long history, we have many traditional festivals here such as Spring Festival, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival.



T: Which festival is your favorite one?



S: Well, I love Mid-Autumn Festival the best. Though in some people's eyes, it is not as important as the Spring Festival. It is celebrated in the best season in Beijing. My parents and I always come back to my grandparents' house for a visit on this festival. We will enjoy a big dinner for family reunion. Generally speaking, we can have all the happiness and at the same time we won't worry about the terrible traffic rush in the Spring Festival seasons.



T: Apart from Mid-Autumn Festival, can you introduce another Chinese traditional festival?



S: As Spring Festival is quite familiar with everyone, I would like to say something about Lantern Festival. Usually, lantern fairs will be held in many big cities for people to enjoy, people can take a walk together in the beautiful color of the night with their families or friends. There will also be some dragon dances, fireworks and lantern shows. In the lantern shows, you can enjoy various lanterns with delicately designed riddles hidden inside. Last Lantern Festival, a friend from Germany came to visit me, she got so excited when she saw all those fireworks since it's very hard to get fireworks in Germany, so we began to set off fireworks near the riverbank after we spend two hours on the difficult riddles. It was so amazing that we didn't stop until it was 12 at night.



T: Do you know anything about western festivals?



S: Yeah, of course. Many western festivals, such as Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, and April Fools' Day are very popular among the Chinese, especially among the youth. I like April Fools' Day because it could be interesting, we can often take this opportunity to play tricks on our friends.



T: Do young couples in China celebrate Valentine's Day?



S: Sure they do. In fact, Chinese young people will celebrate both Valentine's Day on February the 14th and Chinese Valentine, which's called Qixi or the Double Seventh Festival. They would send candies, chocolates, or flowers to each other, they will also do some interesting things together.



Scene I This Year Is Not That Year 此年非彼年

Roger: I am so excited because New Year is coming.

Mary: "New Year" is *Nian* in Chinese, right?

Roger: Right, but today's phrase meaning "Celebrate the New Year" probably came from the phrase "Survive Nian".

Mary: Really? What is the origin of *Nian*?

Roger: The word *Nian* is originally the name of a monster that used to prey on people the night before the beginning of a new year.

Mary: I don't quite understand. Why do people put up red paper and set off firecrackers to celebrate it?

Roger: Well, one year an old man told people to set off firecrackers and put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors to frighten *Nian* away. In this way *Nian* was conquered.

Mary: Oh, I see.

Roger: People today feel the colour of red and the sound of firecrackers add to the excitement of the celebration.

Mary: Yes, red is a colour of warmth, with the power to make people feel energetic and joyful.

罗格：要过新年啦，我好兴奋。

玛丽：“新年”用中文读“Nian”，对吗？

罗格：不错，不过现在的“庆祝新年”可能来源于“幸免于‘年’”。

玛丽：是吗？能告诉我“年”的起源吗？

罗格：“年”原本是在新年前夜出来捕食人类的怪兽。

玛丽：我可糊涂了。那为什么还要贴红纸、放鞭炮来庆祝它到来呢？

罗格：恩，有一年一位老人告诉人们放鞭炮和用红色的纸来装饰门窗可以吓跑“年”。就这样，“年”被打败了。

玛丽：哦，我明白了。

罗格：现在人们只是觉得用红色和鞭炮声能增添他们过年的兴奋。

玛丽：嗯，红色属于暖色系，确实能达到让人精力充沛和喜乐的效果。



Notes survive Nian 幸免于“年”

prey on 捕食，掠夺