







### Selamat Tahun Baru Cina 2013

Malaysia, like America, is a country that is made up of multicultural community. Many cultural festivals are celebrated annually and one of them is *Tahun Baru Cina* or Chinese New Year. It is celebrated by the Chinese community of Malaysia and it is considered one of the biggest cultural celebrations of the year.

*Tahun Baru Cina* is celebrated according to the lunar calendar and one of the important components of the calendar is the twelve animal zodiac signs. Each year is represented by an animal zodiac and the cycle repeats itself after the 12<sup>th</sup> animal. We learned in class the twelve names of the animal zodiac signs or basically just animal names.

| Nama haiwan zodiak  | Gambar haiwan zodiak |
|---|----------------------|
|  | Tikus                |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
|  A cartoon illustration of a brown cow with small horns and large, wide eyes, standing upright.                         | <p>Lembu</p>   |
|  A cartoon illustration of a brown tiger with stripes and a red collar, standing upright.                               | <p>Harimau</p> |
|  A cartoon illustration of a light brown rabbit with long ears, holding a carrot and a piece of green leafy vegetable. | <p>Arnab</p>   |
|  A cartoon illustration of a green dragon with horns and wings, standing upright.                                     | <p>Naga</p>    |
|  A cartoon illustration of a green snake with large eyes, coiled slightly.  | <p>Ular</p>    |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|    | <p>Kuda</p>    |
|    | <p>kambing</p> |
|   | <p>Monyet</p>  |
|  | <p>Ayam</p>    |
|  | <p>Anjing</p>  |



Tahun ini tahun ular.

*This year is the year of the snake.*

Jackie Chan dilahirkan pada tahun kuda. *Jackie Chan is born on the year of the horse*

Anda lahir pada tahun zodiak apa? *What zodiac year are you born in?*

Since this year is the year of the snake, next year will be the year of the horse. The following year will be the year of the goat and so on and so forth. In 2019, it will be the year of the pig. After that, 2020 will be the year of the mouse. The cycle repeats again. To read about the legend of the Chinese zodiac, you can visit [here](#).

Apart from the Chinese Zodiac, we also learned about the important elements of Chinese New Year.

Here are some of the ones we have talked about in class:

| <b>Tarian Singa</b> | <b>“Lion Dance”</b>   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <p><b>Origins of the Lion Dance</b></p> <p>This is the lion dance, a traditional folk art which originates from China. The lion dance in Malaysia is usually performed during Chinese celebrations such as Chinese New Year, as well as business launches and the welcoming of dignitaries. Legend has it that in the early Ming Dynasty, an evil beast would appear every year at the Foshan area of Guangdong Province. The tormented citizens retaliated by making lions shaped with the bamboo and painting them in brilliant colours. They danced with the lions to the beat of gongs and drums and ran towards the evil beast whenever it appeared. The beast, being scared of lions would flee. Thus the lion became a symbol for warding off evil spirits as well as to usher in good fortune, and the custom of performing the lion dance continues today.</p> <p>Today the ancient art has become an international sports event when the first Genting World Lion Dance Championship was held in 1994. The championship is held on a bi-annual basis. The best lion dance troupes from around the globe would vie for the titles Eastern (for Asian countries) and Western (for Continental countries) Lion King.</p> <p>Sources: Virtualmalaysia.com</p> |

**Jamuan keluarga sehari sebelum Tahun Baru Cina**

**“Family Reunion dinner” a day before Chinese New Year**



A reunion dinner is held on the New Year's eve of the Chinese New Year, during which family members get together to celebrate.


## Tradisi memberi “ang pao”

### “Ang-pao” giving tradition



A monetary gift which is given during holidays or special occasions such as weddings. The red color of the envelope symbolizes good luck and is supposed to ward off evil spirits. **Ang-paos** are typically given by the married to the unmarried, most of whom are children.

Sources: wikipedia

| <b>Mercun “Firecrackers”</b>  |   |
|---|---|
|  | <p>The burning of firecrackers is done on the Chinese New Year's eve and throughout the 15 days of celebration. The firecrackers are known for the deafening explosions that are thought to scare away evil spirits. The burning of firecrackers also signifies a joyful time of the year and has become an integral aspect of Chinese New Year celebration. Apart from 'mercun', there is also fireworks or 'bunga api'.</p> <p>Sources: wikipedia</p> |

### Rumah terbuka

A practice known as "open house" (rumah terbuka) is common during the festivities, especially during Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Deepavali, Chinese New Year, and Christmas. Open house means that all well-wishers are received and that everyone, regardless of background, is invited to attend. Open houses are normally held at the home of the host and foods are prepared by the host. There are also open houses held at larger public venues, especially when hosted by government agencies or corporations. Most Malaysians take the time off work or school to return to their hometowns to celebrate the festivities with their extended relatives. This practice is commonly known as balik kampung and usually causes traffic jams on most highways in the country.

Sources: Wikipedia



By Jocelyn

In class, we learned about **rumah terbuka** that is held by the Malaysian government which was attended by the prime minister of Malaysia or Perdana Menteri Malaysia in 2012 in an article titled 'Rumah terbuka Malaysia Tahun Baru Cina di Sitiawan'.



Source: Glenn Guan/The Star

Kosa kata:

1. **Perdana menteri:** prime minister
2. **Sambut:** to celebrate ; **sambutan:** celebration
3. **Memberi** (root word: beri): to give  
E.g. Datuk saya memberi ang pao **kepada** adik saya.  
*My grandfather gave angpao to my younger brother.*

Remember 'kepada' and 'daripada'? Please refer to the previous post on letters for more information.

4. **Menerima** (root word: terima): to receive  
E.g. Adik saya menerima angpao **daripada** datuk saya.  
*My younger brother received angpao from my grandfather.*