



20 Chinese Taboos

You Should Never Try



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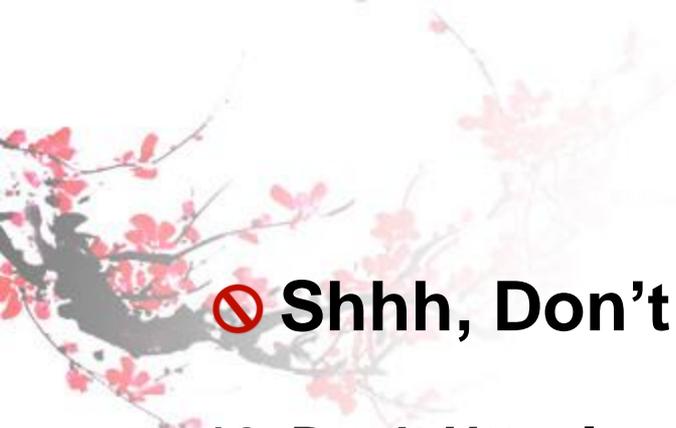


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1. Be Safe, Wrap Everything in Luck

Traditionally, Chinese prefer "红 (hóng) red," because red is the color of celebration, good luck and joy.

Compared with Western people who regard white as "pure and clean," Chinese people don't like white since in China, white is the color of grief and poverty.

Moreover, black is the color of bad luck, symbolizing disaster and bereavement.



Read more: <http://www.echineselearning.com/blog/five-things-you-should-know-about-chinese-gift-giving>

2. Be Patient, Open The Gift Later

It is considered "礼貌 (lǐmào) polite" in Chinese culture to open the "礼物 (lǐwù) gifts" after you leave.

When you receive a gift from a Chinese person, do not open it in front of the giver unless they insist, or you may simply ask, "Can I open it?"



Read more: <http://www.echineselearning.com/blog/five-things-you-should-know-about-chinese-gift-giving>

3. When the Time Comes, Don't Get Them a Clock

In Chinese, "钟 (zhōng) clock" has the same pronunciation as death "终 (zhōng)." To elaborate on their similarities, "送钟 (sòng zhōng)" means to give a clock as a present and "送终 (sòngzhōng)" means to attend a funeral.



Read more: <http://www.echineselearning.com/blog/top-7-taboos-in-china-beginner>

4. Keep Your Green Hats on the Rack

In China, when a man wears a "绿帽子 (lǜ màozi) green hat," it signals that he's been cheated on by his wife. So never ever say "绿帽子 (lǜ màozi) green hat," to a Chinese man!

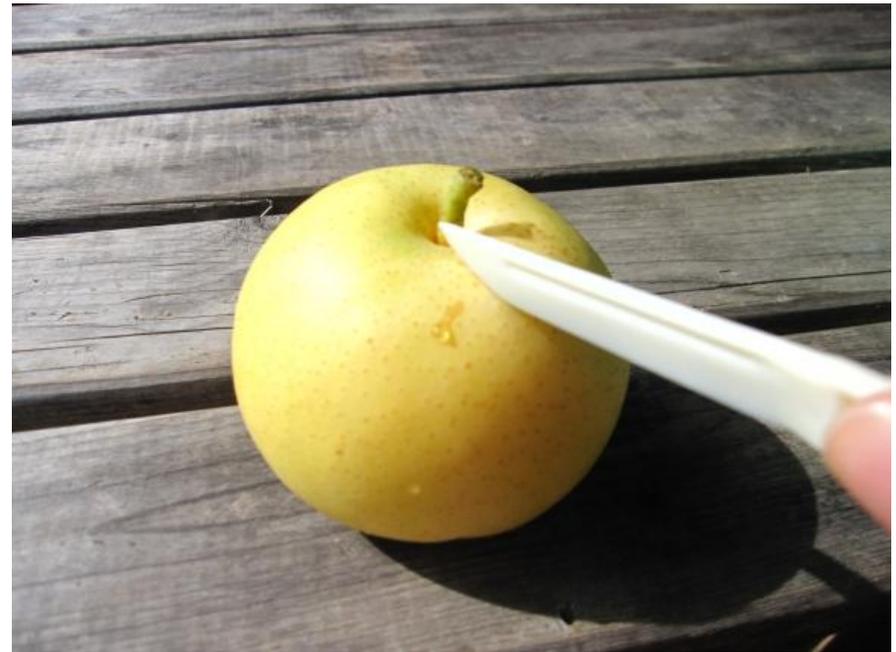


Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/wife-cheat-on-you-there-is-a-hat-for-that>

5. Avoid Halved Pears

"梨 (lí)" is a pear, however in Chinese, it's not so easy to define since "梨 (lí)" has a similar sound with "离(lí)," which means to depart.

In China, occasionally you will see people send their friends pears, but never will you see a pear cut into halves "分梨 (fēnlí)": the exact pronunciation as "分离 (fēnlí)" meaning "to separate."



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/are-you-criticizing-my-gift-elementary>

6. Don't Drop the Dishes

Bear in mind that you should be rather careful and avoid breaking fragile items like cups, glasses, plates, and bowls. Otherwise, it is believed that your luck will be "碎 (suì) broken" in the coming year. If it does happen, people around have to remedy the situation by immediately saying several auspicious phrases, such as "碎碎 (岁岁) 平安 (suìsuì píng'ān) safe and sound every year."



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/six-surprising-taboos-for-chinese-new-year>

7. Pass on the Porridge

In the past, only the poor ate porridge, so nowadays it is believed that eating porridge is a symbol of poverty. This means if you eat porridge on the first day of Spring Festival, you may live a poor life in the future.



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/six-surprising-taboos-for-chinese-new-year>

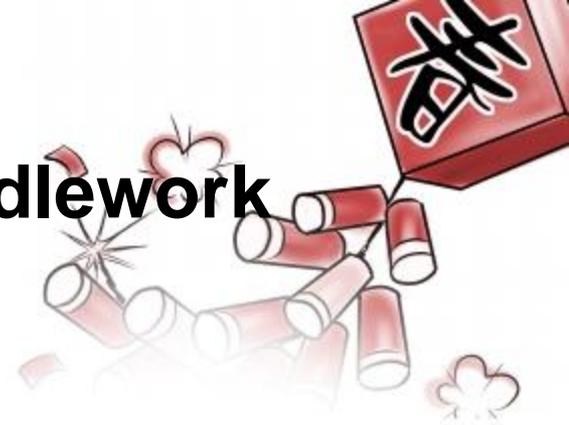
8. Don't Wash Your Hair or Do the Laundry

The first and second days of Spring Festival are reserved for the birthday of the Water God, so you can't wash "衣服 (yīfu) clothes" these two days. What's more, it is considered that washing "头发 (tóufa) hair" or "衣服 (yīfu) clothes" will wash away your fortune and luck in making money.



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/six-surprising-taboos-for-chinese-new-year>

9. Don't Use Scissors or Do Needlework



The reason for this is that the scissors would cut off the road to fortune, making it bad luck to do needlework on the first day of Spring Festival.



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/six-surprising-taboos-for-chinese-new-year>

10. Save the Spring Cleaning for Later

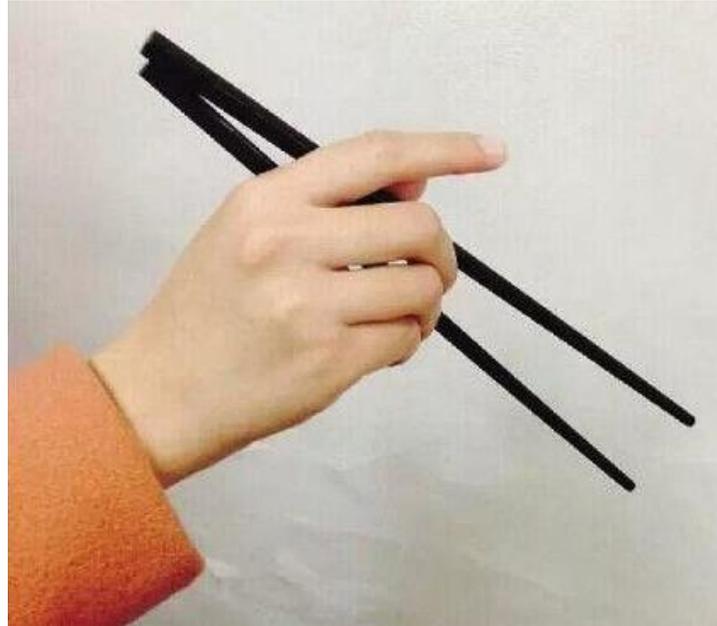
Chinese people don't do the cleaning during the Spring Festival since they think that it would clean their fortunes or luck away. People also believe that it is easy to pour out dirty things onto the gods, which would certainly annoy them and lead to disaster or bad fortune.



Read more: <http://www.chineselearning.com/blog/six-surprising-taboos-for-chinese-new-year>

11. Never Use Your Index Finger Wrong with Chopsticks

It is widely acknowledged in China that when someone is about to swear, they tend to point their "食指 (shízhǐ) index finger" at others. So if you let your "食指 (shízhǐ) index finger" point to other guests at the table, it is perceived as being impolite.



Read more: <http://www.echineselearning.com/blog/kuaizi-liyi-wu-zhidao-five-things-you-must-not-do-with-chopsticks-beginner>

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