ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Festivals – Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! For countries that follow the Lunar calendar – Sunday is Chinese New Years day.

HOT TOPICS

1. Will you do anything special for Chinese New Year in Brisbane?

2. If you celebrate Chinese New Year, what would you normally do in your country?

3. In your group, discuss the meaning of the New Year festival. For example: Do you know why Chinese people have a Lion Dance/Dragon dance and firecrackers?

4. At this time, many families meet together and give food for their ancestors. Why do they do this? What do some people think might happen if they don't worship their ancestors?

5. In Australia, we have no special ceremony for our ancestors. If somebody dies, we may visit the gravesite to remember them but not to give them anything or worship them. This probably comes from our Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when you die, you either go to heaven to be with God or hell to be with the Devil. Once you have died you cannot influence or bring good or bad luck to the people living. Only God or the Devil can do that.

6. In groups of three discuss: What do you think happens to you after you die? Why?

In the Bible, Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes in me** will **live**, even though he **dies;** and whoever **lives** and **believes in me** will **never die**.

7. In pairs discuss: What you think Jesus was talking about?

Vocabulary

Ancestors: relative or family who lived a long time ago.
Worship: to show respect by saying prayers or doing religious ceremonies.
Gravesite: a place in the ground where somebody is buried.
Resurrection: come alive again.
Reincarnation: the belief that a dead person's spirit returns in another body – insect, animal, rich person…

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Festivals – Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! For countries that follow the Lunar calendar – Sunday is Chinese New Years day.

HOT TOPICS

1. Will you do anything special for Chinese New Year in Brisbane?

2. If you celebrate Chinese New Year, what would you normally do in your country?

3. In your group, discuss the meaning of the New Year festival. For example: Do you know why Chinese people have a Lion Dance/Dragon dance and firecrackers?

4. At this time, many families meet together and give food for their ancestors. Why do they do this? What do some people think might happen if they don't worship their ancestors?

5. In Australia, we have no special ceremony for our ancestors. If somebody dies, we may visit the gravesite to remember them but not to give them anything or worship them. This probably comes from our Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when you die, you either go to heaven to be with God or hell to be with the Devil. Once you have died you cannot influence or bring good or bad luck to the people living. Only God or the Devil can do that.

6. In groups of three discuss: What do you think happens to you after you die? Why?

In the Bible, Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes in me** will **live**, even though he **dies;** and whoever **lives** and **believes in me** will **never die**.

7. In pairs discuss: What you think Jesus was talking about?

Vocabulary

Ancestors: relative or family who lived a long time ago.
Worship: to show respect by saying prayers or doing religious ceremonies.
Gravesite: a place in the ground where somebody is buried.
Resurrection: come alive again.
Reincarnation: the belief that a dead person's spirit returns in another body – insect, animal, rich person…