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**Level 4 – 27th January 2025**

## **Lunar New Year sees record migration in China**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

Millions of people in China are returning to their hometowns for the Lunar New Year. Airports and railway stations are full of travellers making the annual trek home. This year is the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. It begins on the 29th of January. Overseas travel is popular this year. A travel agency said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages...had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia.

China's New Year sees the world's biggest yearly movement of people. High-speed trains mean the number of people on the move has skyrocketed. Journeys are expected to hit record highs. The first New Year holiday began in China 3,500 years ago. Back then, far fewer people left their hometown. With the growth of China's economy, billions of people have moved for work. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy.

Sources: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-readies-lunar-new-year-amid-worries-about-economy-2025-01-24/>  
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/lifestyle/chinas-lunar-travel-rush-kicks-103144154.html>  
<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2025/01/23/lunar-new-year-chinese-2025-year-of-the-snake.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. returning                     | a. travel             |
| 2. railway stations are          | b. from last year     |
| 3. making the annual trek        | c. to their hometowns |
| 4. the 12-year Chinese zodiac    | d. are in Asia        |
| 5. Overseas                      | e. full of travellers |
| 6. bookings for outbound         | f. cycle              |
| 7. holiday packages had doubled  | g. flights            |
| 8. The most popular destinations | h. home               |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. the world's biggest yearly movement | a. work              |
| 2. the number of people on the move    | b. record highs      |
| 3. Journeys are expected to hit        | c. for the economy   |
| 4. Back then, far                      | d. China's economy   |
| 5. the growth of                       | e. of people         |
| 6. billions of people have moved for   | f. exodus            |
| 7. The subsequent annual               | g. has skyrocketed   |
| 8. a boon                              | h. fewer people left |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

Millions of people in China (1) \_\_\_\_\_ their hometowns for the Lunar New Year. Airports and railway stations are full of travellers making (2) \_\_\_\_\_ home. This year is the Year of the Snake in the 12-year (3) \_\_\_\_\_. It begins on the 29th of January. Overseas (4) \_\_\_\_\_ this year. A travel agency said "bookings for outbound flights (5) \_\_\_\_\_...had doubled from last year". The most (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in Asia.

China's New Year sees the world's biggest (7) \_\_\_\_\_ people. High-speed trains mean the number of people (8) \_\_\_\_\_ has skyrocketed. Journeys are expected to (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The first New Year holiday began in China 3,500 years ago. Back then, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ left their hometown. With the growth of China's economy, billions of people have (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The subsequent annual exodus has been (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the economy.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

Millions of people in China are returning to their hometowns for the Lunar New Year. Airports and railway stations are full of travellers making the annual trek home. This year is the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. It begins on the 29th of January. Overseas travel is popular this year. A travel agency said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages... had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia. China's New Year sees the world's biggest yearly movement of people. High-speed trains mean the number of people on the move has skyrocketed. Journeys are expected to hit record highs. The first New Year holiday began in China 3,500 years ago. Back then, far fewer people left their hometown. With the growth of China's economy, billions of people have moved for work. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy.

# THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2501/250127-year-of-the-snake-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Year of the Snake in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

