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**Level 6 – 27th January 2025**

## Lunar New Year sees record migration in China

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

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

The Lunar New Year is a huge occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no exception. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual trek. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia.

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of humanity". With the advent of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the move has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record highs" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the rapid growth of China's economy, billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an uplift in profits.

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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Year of the Snake. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

New Year / occasion / hometown / celebrate / railway stations / zodiac / snake / Asia  
humanity / high-speed transport / journey / holiday / greener pastures / tourism

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. NEW YEAR:** Students A **strongly** believe New Year is the best time of the year; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. HUGE OCCASIONS:** What do you think of these occasions? What have you done to celebrate them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Think	Celebrations
New Year		
Birthdays		
Weddings		
Religious events		
Moving house		
Important tests		

**5. HOMETOWN:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "hometown". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. GREENER PASTURES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to relocate to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- A nearby town
- A faraway town
- A mountaintop
- A beach community
- Another country
- The desert
- The jungle
- Space

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. occasion    | a. A long and/or difficult walk or journey.                             |
| 2. exception   | b. Going away from a place, especially to another country.              |
| 3. trek        | c. A special time or event.   |
| 4. correspond  | d. Something that is not like the rest; something different or special. |
| 5. festivities | e. To match or be the same as something.                                |
| 6. outbound    | f. Fun activities or celebrations for a special event.                  |
| 7. destination | g. The place you are going to.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 8. annual            | h. Coming after something else.                        |
| 9. advent            | i. Happening every year.                               |
| 10. skyrocket        | j. A better place or situation.                        |
| 11. greener pastures | k. When many people leave a place at the same time.    |
| 12. subsequent       | l. The start or beginning of something.                |
| 13. exodus           | m. Parts or areas of a business, economy, or activity. |
| 14. sectors          | n. To rise or go up very fast.                         |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says one hundred thousand people relocate for the New Year. **T / F**
2. The article says many Chinese people go trekking during the New Year. **T / F**
3. The article says the snake is number seven in the Chinese zodiac. **T / F**
4. Asia is the most popular New Year travel destination for Chinese people. **T / F**
5. The Lunar New Year is the world's biggest yearly movement of people. **T / F**
6. China's growing economy means people are moving to greener pastures. **T / F**
7. China celebrated its first Lunar New Year around 3,500 years ago. **T / F**
8. The Lunar New Year negatively impacts China's hospitality industry. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>occasion</b>         | a. reservations  |
| 2. <b>packed</b>           | b. cited         |
| 3. <b>annual</b>           | c. arrival       |
| 4. <b>quoted</b>           | d. thronged      |
| 5. <b>bookings</b>         | e. migration     |
| 6. <b>humanity</b>         | f. event         |
| 7. <b>advent</b>           | g. boost         |
| 8. <b>greener pastures</b> | h. yearly        |
| 9. <b>exodus</b>           | i. better places |
| 10. <b>uplift</b>          | j. mankind       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The Lunar New Year is a huge               | a. has skyrocketed           |
| 2. overseas                                   | b. packages                  |
| 3. packed with travellers making their annual | c. for the economy           |
| 4. holiday                                    | d. are in Asia               |
| 5. The most popular destinations              | e. movement of humanity      |
| 6. the world's biggest annual                 | f. growth of China's economy |
| 7. the number of people on the move           | g. trek                      |
| 8. the rapid                                  | h. pastures                  |
| 9. greener                                    | i. occasion in China         |
| 10. a boon                                    | j. travel                    |

# GAP FILL

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

The Lunar New Year is a huge (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual (3) \_\_\_\_\_. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese (4) \_\_\_\_\_ cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year. It (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a travel agency that said "bookings for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most popular (8) \_\_\_\_\_ are in Asia.

*zodiac*  
*quoted*  
*destinations*  
*exception*  
*outbound*  
*occasion*  
*trek*  
*last*

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of (9) \_\_\_\_\_. With the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the move has (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record highs" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ growth of China's economy, billions of people have (14) \_\_\_\_\_ across the country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The subsequent annual (15) \_\_\_\_\_ has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail (16) \_\_\_\_\_ see an uplift in profits.

*far*  
*rapid*  
*humanity*  
*skyrocketed*  
*exodus*  
*advent*  
*sectors*  
*relocated*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for celebrate it
  - b. to celebrate it
  - c. as celebrate it
  - d. with celebrate it
- 2) Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. their annual trek
  - b. their annual track
  - c. their annual tread
  - d. their annual trick
- 3) This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Chinese zodiac cycle
  - b. Chinese zodiac cycled
  - c. Chinese zodiac cyclist
  - d. Chinese zodiac sickle
- 4) Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. popularize this year
  - b. popularity this year
  - c. popular that year
  - d. popular this year
- 5) It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and holiday package is
  - b. and holiday packages
  - c. and holiday packaged
  - d. and holiday pack ages
- 6) The AP news agency said China's New Year is the world's biggest annual \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. movement of who manatee
  - b. movement of humane tea
  - c. movement of humanity
  - d. movement of hue manatee
- 7) The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. hit album highs
  - b. hit record highs
  - c. hit song highs
  - d. hit artist highs
- 8) billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to whiter pastures
  - b. to redder pastures
  - c. to bluer pastures
  - d. to greener pastures
- 9) The subsequent annual exodus has \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. bin a boon
  - b. been a boo
  - c. been a boon
  - d. bin a bomb
- 10) The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. up lifting profits
  - b. uplifting profits
  - c. uplift on profits
  - d. uplift in profits

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The Lunar New Year is a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making (3) \_\_\_\_\_. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel (5) \_\_\_\_\_ this year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in Asia.

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual (7) \_\_\_\_\_". With the advent of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "(9) \_\_\_\_\_" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ China's economy, billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The (11) \_\_\_\_\_ has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How many people does the article say return to their hometowns?
2. What annual thing does the article say travellers make?
3. For how long can the Lunar New Year last?
4. How many national holidays are there during the Lunar New Year?
5. What is the most popular international destination for the New Year?
6. What has led to an increase in the number of people in China travelling?
7. Who said journeys in China are expected to "hit record highs" this year?
8. When was the first Lunar New Year celebrated in China?
9. Where have many people relocated to?
10. What does the hospitality sector see an uplift in?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How many people does the article say return to their hometowns?
  - a) billions
  - b) tens of millions
  - c) hundreds of thousands
  - d) hundreds of millions
- 2) What annual thing does the article say travellers make?
  - a) a cake
  - b) a trek (home)
  - c) resolutions
  - d) a special dish
- 3) For how long can the Lunar New Year last?
  - a) 13 days
  - b) 14 days
  - c) 15 days
  - d) 16 days
- 4) How many national holidays are there during the Lunar New Year?
  - a) 5
  - b) 6
  - c) 7
  - d) 8
- 5) What is the most popular international destination for the New Year?
  - a) South Korea
  - b) The USA
  - c) Europe
  - d) Asia
- 6) What has led to an increase in the number of people in China travelling?
  - a) better jobs
  - b) climate change
  - c) modern, high-speed transport
  - d) a rise in the population
- 7) Who said journeys in China are expected to "hit record highs" this year?
  - a) the Xinhua news agency
  - b) AP Press
  - c) Reuters
  - d) the BBC
- 8) When was the first Lunar New Year celebrated in China?
  - a) just over 3,500 years ago
  - b) exactly 3,500 years ago
  - c) around 3,500 years ago
  - d) just under 3,500 years ago
- 9) Where have many people relocated to?
  - a) to larger farms
  - b) to greener pastures
  - c) to small vegetable patches
  - d) to inner cities
- 10) What does the hospitality sector see an uplift in?
  - a) profits
  - b) custom
  - c) complaints
  - d) reservations

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – A Nearby Town**

You think a nearby town is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, another country or space.

## **Role B – A Beach Community**

You think a beach community is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a nearby town, another country or space.

## **Role C – Another Country**

You think another country is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, a nearby town or space.

## **Role D – Space**

You think space is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, another country or a nearby town.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'New Year' and 'snake'.

<b>New Year</b>	<b>snake</b>
-----------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• huge</li><li>• packed</li><li>• 12</li><li>• 16</li><li>• popular</li><li>• last</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• movement</li><li>• advent</li><li>• move</li><li>• 3,500</li><li>• billions</li><li>• tourism</li></ul>
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# THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE SURVEY

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

# THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'New Year'?
3. What do you know about the Lunar New Year?
4. What do you think of the New Year?
5. How has this year been for you so far?
6. How do you celebrate the New Year?
7. What do you think of domestic travel in your country?
8. Are you pessimistic or optimistic about this year?
9. Is overseas or domestic travel best?
10. What do you hope happens this year?

*Lunar New Year sees record migration in China – 27th January 2025*  
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# THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'snake'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is the character of someone born in the Year of the Snake?
15. What do you know about the Chinese zodiac?
16. How do you think this year will go?
17. What's the transport system like in your country?
18. Which greener pastures would you like to relocate to?
19. What do you think of snakes?
20. What questions would you like to ask a zodiac expert?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The Lunar New Year is a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual trek. This year corresponds (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year. It (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia.

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of (7) \_\_\_\_\_". With the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the move has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record (9) \_\_\_\_\_" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the rapid growth of China's economy, billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ pastures. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in profits.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |               |               |                |                  |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) hug       | (b) hugs      | (c) huge       | (d) hugging      |
| 2.  | (a) exception | (b) extract   | (c) extraction | (d) excretion    |
| 3.  | (a) to        | (b) of        | (c) at         | (d) by           |
| 4.  | (a) cycle     | (b) round     | (c) rhythm     | (d) rotation     |
| 5.  | (a) quartered | (b) quested   | (c) quashed    | (d) quoted       |
| 6.  | (a) paired    | (b) twofold   | (c) twinned    | (d) doubled      |
| 7.  | (a) humanity  | (b) humane    | (c) humanly    | (d) humanitarian |
| 8.  | (a) inventory | (b) passing   | (c) wisdom     | (d) advent       |
| 9.  | (a) highs     | (b) ups       | (c) uppers     | (d) climaxes     |
| 10. | (a) follows   | (b) following | (c) followed   | (d) follower     |
| 11. | (a) bluer     | (b) greener   | (c) whiter     | (d) redder       |
| 12. | (a) uplift    | (b) downdraft | (c) ongoing    | (d) upheaval     |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. a huge osccanio in China
2. This year is no otxcpeien
3. This year ronsscpoed to the Year of the Snake
4. It teuqdo a travel agency
5. holiday peakacsg
6. The most popular odintstnaesi are in Asia

## Paragraph 2

7. the world's biggest annual movement of htyunmai
8. the nvdaet of modern, high-speed transport
9. billions of people have rectdeoa
10. greener spetraus
11. The subsequent annual usedx
12. retail ecsstor

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no exception. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed
- ( ) boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an uplift in profits.
- ( ) highs" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have
- ( ) left their hometowns. However, following the rapid growth of China's economy, billions of people have relocated
- ( ) move has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record
- ( ) year Chinese zodiac cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last
- ( ) The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of
- ( ) packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia.
- ( ) with travellers making their annual trek. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-
- ( ) popular this year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday
- ( ) for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly
- ( ) humanity". With the advent of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the
- ( ) across the country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The subsequent annual exodus has been a
- ( **1** ) The Lunar New Year is a huge occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. occasion New in a China . is huge Year
2. annual with travellers trek . It's their making packed
3. is Overseas this particularly popular travel year .
4. platform . flights Outbound on packages holiday its and
5. The popular most in Asia . are destinations
6. biggest world's humanity . annual movement of The
7. number The the people move on of skyrocketed .
8. journeys expected highs The are to hit record
9. have people would fewer left their hometowns . Far
10. exodus boon . subsequent annual has The been a

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The Lunar New Year is a *huge / hug* occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate *them / it*. This year is no exception. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are *packaged / packed* with travellers making their *annually / annual* trek. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake *in / at* the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and *last / lasts* for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters *retorted / reported* that overseas travel is particularly popular *that / this* year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had *dubbed / doubled* from last year". The most popular destinations are *at / in* Asia.

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of *humane / humanity*". With the *advent / advert* of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people *on / in* the move has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record *highs / ups*" this year. When the first New Year holiday *began / beginning* in China, some 3,500 years ago, *for / far* fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the rapid *grown / growth* of China's economy, billions of people have relocated across *the / a* country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The *sequence / subsequent* annual exodus has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors *see / seeing* an uplift in profits.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th\_ L\_n\_r N\_w Y\_\_r \_s \_ h\_g\_ \_cc\_s\_\_n \_n Ch\_n\_.  
H\_ndr\_ds \_f m\_ll\_\_ns \_f p\_\_pl\_ r\_t\_rn t\_ th\_\_r  
h\_m\_t\_wns t\_ c\_l\_br\_t\_ \_t. Th\_s y\_\_r \_s n\_  
\_xc\_pt\_\_n. \_\_rp\_rts, r\_\_lw\_y st\_t\_\_ns \_nd b\_s st\_t\_\_ns  
\_r\_ p\_ck\_d w\_th tr\_v\_ll\_rs m\_k\_ng th\_\_r \_nn\_\_l tr\_k.  
Th\_s y\_\_r c\_rr\_sp\_nds t\_ th\_ Y\_\_r \_f th\_ Sn\_k\_ \_n  
th\_ 12-y\_\_r Ch\_n\_s\_ z\_d\_\_c cycl\_. Th\_ f\_st\_v\_t\_\_s \_nd  
c\_l\_br\_t\_\_ns b\_g\_n \_n th\_ 29th \_f J\_n\_\_ry \_nd l\_st  
f\_r \_p t\_ 16 d\_ys. Th\_ f\_rst s\_v\_n \_r\_ n\_t\_\_n\_l  
h\_l\_d\_ys. R\_\_t\_rs r\_p\_rtd th\_t \_v\_rs\_\_s tr\_v\_l \_s  
p\_rt\_c\_l\_rly p\_p\_l\_r th\_s y\_\_r. \_t q\_\_td \_ tr\_v\_l  
\_g\_ncy th\_t s\_\_d "b\_\_k\_ngs f\_r \_\_tb\_\_nd fl\_ghts \_nd  
h\_l\_d\_y p\_ck\_g\_s \_n \_ts pl\_tf\_rm h\_d d\_\_bl\_d fr\_m  
l\_st y\_\_r". Th\_ m\_st p\_p\_l\_r d\_st\_n\_t\_\_ns \_r\_ \_n  
\_s\_\_.

Th\_ \_P n\_ws \_g\_ncy s\_\_d Ch\_n\_'s N\_w Y\_\_r \_s "th\_  
w\_rld's b\_gg\_st \_nn\_\_l m\_v\_m\_nt \_f h\_m\_n\_ty". W\_th  
th\_ \_dv\_nt \_f m\_d\_rn, h\_g\_h-sp\_\_d tr\_nsp\_rt \_n Ch\_n\_,  
th\_ n\_mbr \_f p\_\_pl\_ \_n th\_ m\_v\_ h\_s skyr\_ck\_t\_d.  
Th\_ X\_nh\_\_ n\_ws \_g\_ncy s\_\_d j\_\_rn\_ys \_r\_ \_xp\_ct\_d  
t\_ "h\_t r\_c\_rd h\_g\_hs" th\_s y\_\_r. Wh\_n th\_ f\_rst N\_w  
Y\_\_r h\_l\_d\_y b\_g\_n \_n Ch\_n\_, s\_m\_ 3,500 y\_\_rs \_g\_,  
f\_r f\_w\_r p\_\_pl\_ w\_\_ld h\_v\_ l\_ft th\_\_r h\_m\_t\_wns.  
H\_w\_v\_r, f\_ll\_w\_ng th\_ r\_p\_d gr\_wth \_f Ch\_n\_'s  
\_c\_n\_my, b\_ll\_\_ns \_f p\_\_pl\_ h\_v\_ r\_l\_c\_t\_d \_cr\_ss th\_  
c\_\_ntry f\_r w\_rk, st\_dy, \_r t\_ gr\_\_n\_r p\_st\_rs. Th\_  
s\_bs\_q\_\_nt \_nn\_\_l \_x\_d\_s h\_s b\_\_n \_ b\_\_n f\_r th\_  
\_c\_n\_my. Th\_ t\_\_r\_sm, h\_sp\_t\_l\_ty \_nd r\_t\_\_l s\_ct\_rs  
s\_\_ \_n \_pl\_ft \_n pr\_f\_ts.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the lunar new year is a huge occasion in china hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it this year is no exception airports railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual trek this year corresponds to the year of the snake in the 12year chinese zodiac cycle the festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of january and last for up to 16 days the first seven are national holidays reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year it quoted a travel agency that said bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year the most popular destinations are in asia

the ap news agency said chinas new year is the worlds biggest annual movement of humanity with the advent of modern highspeed transport in china the number of people on the move has skyrocketed the xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to hit record highs this year when the first new year holiday began in china some 3500 years ago far fewer people would have left their hometowns however following the rapid growth of chinas economy billions of people have relocated across the country for work study or to greener pastures the subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy the tourism hospitality and retail sectors see an uplift in profits

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The Lunar New Year is a huge occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no exception. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual trek. This year corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia. The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of humanity". With the advent of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on them has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record highs" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the rapid growth of China's economy, billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or to green pastures. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an uplift in profits.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE:** Make a poster about the Year of the Snake. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. RESOLUTIONS:** Write a magazine article about all of us making and keeping 10 New Year resolutions. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on the Year of the Snake. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on how this year will be. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 T    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. a
6. j	7. c	8. i	9. e	10. g

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Hundreds of millions
- A trek (home)
- Sixteen days
- Seven
- Asia
- Modern, high-speed transport
- The Xinhua news agency
- Around 3,500 years ago
- To greener pastures
- Profits

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- New Year is a huge occasion in China.
- It's packed with travellers making their annual trek.
- Overseas travel is particularly popular this year.
- Outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform.
- The most popular destinations are in Asia.
- The world's biggest annual movement of humanity.
- The number of people on the move skyrocketed.
- The journeys are expected to hit record highs.
- Far fewer people would have left their hometowns.
- The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. d    4. c    5. d    6. c    7. a    8. c    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)