

Vietnam preparing for lunar new year

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Vietnamese all over the world are preparing for their most important and popular day of the year – Tet, or the Lunar New Year. Tet is celebrated on the

same day as the Chinese New Year, but does not start at the same time. There is a one-hour time difference between Hanoi and Beijing. The holiday celebrates the arrival of spring. There are a lot of traditional customs that people practise during Tet. These include remembering ancestors, sending people New Year's greetings, and giving lucky money to children. It is a time to forget the troubles of the past year and hope for better things in the coming year. It is also a good excuse for people to have big family reunions.

People in villages across Vietnam are working overtime to prepare food and crafts in time for the holiday. In Ho Chi Minh City, 68 flower markets opened on February 3 to start selling different kinds of blooms and decorative trees. Thousands of boats bring flowers from all over the country down the Mekong River to Ho Chi Minh's floating markets. Food is also big business during Tet. Villagers in Dong Thap province are working day and night to make sure they have enough pork rolls to sell – these are in big demand during the festival. Tourism is also booming because of the holiday. Vietnamese travel agents say domestic bookings are 15 per cent higher than last year, and the number of foreign tourists will rise by 46 per cent.

Sources: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn> / wikipedia.org

Writing

People should promise to make their life better every day, not just during the New Year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

preparing / popular day / celebrated / time difference / ancestors / greetings / reunions / crafts / flower markets / trees / big business / working day and night / tourism

True / False

- The Chinese and Vietnamese new years start at the same time. T / F
- Tet celebrates the end of winter and longer and lighter days. T / F
- A Tet custom is to remember family members from past generations. T / F
- Children have to give money to adults during the New Year. T / F
- Over 680 flower markets opened in Ho Chi Minh City. T / F
- Flowers are brought to Ho Chi Minh by thousands of boats. T / F
- People in one province are making pork rolls 24 hours a day. T / F
- There will be over 40% more foreign tourists in Vietnam this year. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. preparing | a. growing |
| 2. arrival | b. reason |
| 3. greetings | c. ornamental |
| 4. excuse | d. getting ready |
| 5. reunions | e. flowers |
| 6. blooms | f. coming |
| 7. decorative | g. overseas |
| 8. during | h. get-togethers |
| 9. booming | i. throughout |
| 10. foreign | j. good wishes |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the words 'New Year'?
- How much do you like New Year?
- What customs do you practice every New Year?
- When and how do you remember your ancestors?
- Is money an important part of your New Year celebrations?
- What troubles from last year would you like to forget?
- What good things are you hoping for this year?
- What do you think of family reunions?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. their most important and popular | a. decorative trees |
| 2. The holiday celebrates the | b. in the coming year |
| 3. a time to forget the troubles | c. overtime to prepare |
| 4. hope for better things | d. family reunions |
| 5. a good excuse for people to have big | e. demand |
| 6. working | f. arrival of spring |
| 7. different kinds of blooms and | g. of the past year |
| 8. Food is also big | h. will rise |
| 9. these are in big | i. day of the year |
| 10. the number of foreign tourists | j. business |

Discussion – Student B

- What food and crafts are important in your country at New Year?
- Are flowers important in national holidays in your country?
- What's your favourite festival food and why?
- Do you have any New Year resolutions?
- Is it better to stay at home with family during New Year or travel?
- What can foreign tourists do in your country during the New Year?
- Is there anything you dislike about New Year?
- What questions would you like to ask a Tet flower seller?

Spelling

- appourl day
- eleatredcb on the same day
- a one-hour time fenefcderi
- the vrlaraj of spring.
- forget the uelobtsr of the past year
- have big family oseninru
- working rovmeeit
- tcrideovae trees
- fitagnlo markets
- in big ddneam
- Tourism is also bmgonio
- igefnro tourists

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Positive thinker - You think the coming year will be great for everyone. Tell the others three reasons why. You do not agree with anything negative that you hear from the others. Make them believe that everything will be good this year and nothing bad will happen.

Negative thinker - You think the coming year will be very, very bad for everyone. Tell the others three reasons why. You do not agree with anything positive that you hear from the others. Make them believe that everything will be bad this year and nothing good will happen.

Good for your country - You think the coming year will be great for your country. Tell the others three reasons why. You also think it will be bad for the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You disagree with everything the negative thinker says.

Good for the world - You think the coming year will be great for the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You also think it will be bad for your country. Tell the others three reasons why. You disagree with everything the positive thinker says.

Speaking - Holidays

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| • New Year | • National / Independence Day |
| • Valentine's Day | • National Grammar Day |
| • Earth Day | • World Sleep Day |
| • Mother's Day | • Teachers' Day |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.