



Whose New Year Is It?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

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1 For many people in the West, the festival has long been known simply as Chinese New Year. Yet Koreans, Vietnamese, and Mongolians all celebrate their own versions, with different foods, greetings, and even zodiac animals. Since the mid-2010s, some American politicians have chosen the term Lunar New Year to include these communities. In 2019, a South Korean activist group even campaigned to have foreign websites and organizations replace the older name. Others point out that the calendar and many customs came from China, and they worry that dropping the word Chinese hides that history.

2 International bodies have also stepped in. In December 2023, the United Nations General Assembly voted to make Lunar New Year a floating holiday, encouraging its offices to avoid meetings on that day. A year later, UNESCO added China's Spring Festival customs to its list of intangible cultural heritage. One decision used a shared name, while the other honored a single nation's tradition.

3 The debate shows that a holiday is never only about food and fireworks. Its name tells us who is included, whose history is remembered, and how neighbors see one another. Perhaps the best answer is simply to ask people what they call their own New Year.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Lunar New Year is a new holiday that started in the 2010s.
- (B) Only Chinese people should celebrate the festival.
- (C) The United Nations decided the correct name for the festival.
- (D) The name of the festival raises questions about who is included and whose history is remembered.

2. What did the United Nations General Assembly do in December 2023?

- (A) It added China's Spring Festival to a heritage list.
- (B) It made Lunar New Year a floating holiday for its offices.
- (C) It asked foreign websites to stop using the name Chinese New Year.
- (D) It banned meetings in every country on that day.

3. Why do some people worry about dropping the word "Chinese"?

- (A) They think it hides the fact that the calendar and many customs came from China.
- (B) They think the festival will become less popular in the West.
- (C) They think Korean and Vietnamese foods are too different.
- (D) They think the word Lunar is too hard to say.

4. What can we infer from the decisions of the UN and UNESCO?

- (A) Both organizations prefer the name Chinese New Year.
- (B) UNESCO wanted to correct the UN's decision.
- (C) International bodies have not chosen a single approach to the festival.
- (D) Korea and Vietnam did not take part in either decision.

5. In paragraph 2, the phrase "stepped in" in "International bodies have also stepped in" is closest in meaning to

- (A) walked away
- (B) become involved
- (C) made a mistake
- (D) stayed silent

6. What does the writer suggest in the last sentence?

- (A) Everyone should use the name Chinese New Year.
- (B) The debate is not important because the food is the same.
- (C) We should respect how each community names its own New Year.
- (D) Governments should vote on one official name.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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|---------------|---|
| 1. version | a. a word or a group of words used as the name of something |
| 2. term | b. a group of people who share the same background, place, or interests |
| 3. community | c. to work in an organized way to change something |
| 4. campaign | d. to try to make someone want to do something |
| 5. encourage | e. not a physical object that you can touch, like a skill or a custom |
| 6. intangible | f. the traditions, buildings, and culture that people receive from the past |
| 7. heritage | g. to show great respect for someone or something |
| 8. honor | h. a form of something that is a little different from other forms of it |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Since the mid-2010s, some American politicians have chosen the term Lunar New Year to include these communities.”

Hint: Start with "About ten years ago" and change "to include" to "so that ... feel included".

2. “One decision used a shared name, while the other honored a single nation's tradition.”

Hint: Use "The UN" and "UNESCO" as subjects and connect them with "but".

3. “Perhaps the best answer is simply to ask people what they call their own New Year.”

Hint: Start with "Maybe we should" and use "the name each group uses".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: International organizations should use the name Lunar New Year instead of Chinese New Year.

FOR 賛成

- Koreans, Vietnamese, and Mongolians also celebrate the festival, so a shared name includes more communities.
- The name Lunar describes the calendar that the festival follows, not a single country.
- The UN General Assembly already chose Lunar New Year, so using it keeps international bodies consistent.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- The calendar and many customs came from China, and dropping the word Chinese may hide that history.
- Singapore and Malaysia still use Chinese New Year as the official name, so one shared name does not fit everyone.
- A better choice is to use each community's own name, like Seollal or Tet, instead of forcing one label.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>