

# Practical Expressions for Chinese Spring Festival

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On the first day of Lunar Year, Chinese people traditionally go from house to house to visit their friends, relatives, and neighbors. This action is called Bainian (bài nián\_\_\_) in Chinese, which means “to pay a New Year’s call” . People start the first day of a year by having breakfast earlier than usual, dressing children in new clothes, and heading out to pay a lot of visits. If you are an expat living in China or [learning mandarin](#), this is a perfect opportunity to express your best wishes. Come to learn some expressions at the last moment!

## Basic Expressions

\_\_\_! (guò nián hǎo)

\_\_\_! (xīn nián kuài lè)

\_\_\_! (gěi nín bài nián le)

**Greetings for Spring Festival** The sentences above are similar to “Happy New Year” in English. The first two is used by almost everyone, while the last one is used when a young person pays a visit to an elderly or respected person.

With the rapid spread of Internet, the methods of Bainian have developed into a great variety of forms. There’s no need for you to express greetings from door to door if you are busy. Alternatively, you can send e-mails, online videos, e-cards, or text messages to give a new year’s wish.

## Beginnings of GreetingsSpring Festival in China

As for greetings, there is no difference in expressions resulted by the age. However, expressions to the elder and the young are different in Chinese.

\_\_\_... (zhù nín...)

Meaning : Wish you or bless you...

If the person you are to greet is older than you, you can say: \_\_\_...

\_\_\_...(zhù nǐ)

Meaning: Wish you or bless you...

If the one you are to greet is younger than you, you can say: \_\_\_...

## Common Greetings

\_\_\_ (xīn xiǎng shì chéng):

Meaning: All your wishes come true.

\_\_\_\_\_ (wàn shì rú yì)

Meaning: May everything goes the way you wish for.

\_\_\_\_\_ (xiào kǒu cháng kāi)

Meaning: Be happy and wear smiles every day.

The Year of Snake \_\_\_\_\_ (jí xīng gāo zhào)

Meaning: Wish you be blessed by God of Fortune, God of Prosperity and God of Longevity.

\_\_\_\_\_ (jí xiáng rú yì)

Meaning: Wish you good luck on everything that you are willing to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ (xīn chūn dà jí)

Meaning: May the new spring brings you good fortune.

\_\_\_\_\_ (dà jí dà lì)

Meaning: I wish you happiness, luck and wealth in a new year.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Gōng xǐ fā cái, hóng bāo ná lái)

Meaning: Wish you prosperous in the new year. Please give me a red envelope!

Note: On Chinese New Year, one of the most loved pastimes is exchanging “\_\_\_\_\_” (hóng bāo, red envelopes), also called “\_\_\_\_\_” (yā suì qián, gift money), especially for kids. The gift is what adults give the youth during spring festival to bring blessings and good luck to them.

Greetings for Health

Greetings for Health

\_\_\_\_\_ (shēn tǐ jiàn kāng)

Meaning: I wish you the best of your health.

\_\_\_\_\_ (lóng mǎ jīng shén)

Meaning: Wish you be energetic.

Greetings for Work or Business

spring festival scrolls \_\_\_\_\_ (gōng xǐ fā cái) New Year scrolls

Meaning: Wish you be prosperous.

\_\_\_\_\_ (cái yuán guǎng jìn)

Meaning: May you have abundant source of income and receive wealth and fortune.

\_\_\_\_\_ (shēng yì xīng lóng)

Meaning: May your business thriving.

\_\_\_\_\_ (gōng zuò shùn lì)

Meaning: Everything goes well with your work

\_\_\_\_\_ (shì yè yǒu chéng)

Meaning: May you make achievements in your career.

\_\_\_\_\_ (shì yè zhēng zhēng rì shàng)

Meaning: Wish your business flourishing.

\_\_\_\_\_ (bù bù gāo shēng):

Meaning: May you have a good prospect in job promotion.

\_\_\_\_\_ (píng bù qīng yún)

Meaning: Wish you get promoted rapidly.

\_\_\_\_\_ (mǎ dào chéng gōng)

Meaning: Wish you meet with success at the very beginning.

Greetings for Students

Idioms for Spring Festival

\_\_\_\_\_ (xué yè yǒu chéng)

Meaning: Make achievements on school work.

\_\_\_\_\_ (xué xí jìn bù)

Meaning: Make progress on studies.

\_\_\_\_\_ (jīn bǎng tí míng)

Meaning: Succeed in the examinations (especially for those who are going to take an important examination, such as college entrance examination.)

2013 Chinese New Year

Greetings for the family

\_\_\_\_\_ (hé jiā huān lè)

Meaning: Have a happy family.

\_\_\_\_\_ (jiā hé wàn shì xīng)

Meaning: Harmonious family brings good wealth.

\_\_\_\_\_ (nián nián yǒu yú)

Meaning: Always get more than you wanted. (a wish for surplus and bountiful harvests every year)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Shé nián xíng dà yùn)

Meaning: Good luck for the year of Snake.

\_\_\_\_\_ (suì suì píng ān)

Meaning: Wish you get rid of all mishaps.

Note: It is often used when tea-things is broken during Chinese New Year, because “\_” (suì, each year) is a homophone for “\_” (suì, break).

Greetings for Single Female

\_\_\_\_\_ (zǎo rì zhǎo dào rú yì láng jūn)

Meaning: Find your Mr. Right as soon as possible.

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When you think you understand Chinese

February 27th, 2015 by admin

When you think you understand Chinese - A [Learn Chinese](#) story that will make you laugh

Brad, a [Chinese learner](#) who came from Canada, was invited to a dinner by his Chinese friend Liu.

Liu introduced him to his friends around the dinner table. Then they started to eat and chat. After a while, a friend of Liu stood up and

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