



Kung Hei Fat Choi



Ready To Learn wishes all of our students and staff a Happy Chinese New Year. This year sees the holiday occur at the end of January but do you know why it is different each year? Read on to find out!

The Chinese Lunar New Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2600BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. Like the Western calendar, The Chinese Lunar Calendar is a yearly one, with the start of the lunar year being based on the cycles of the moon. Therefore, because of this cyclical dating, the beginning of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. This year it falls on January 26th – 28th. A complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five cycles of 12 years each.

The Chinese Lunar Calendar names each of the twelve years after an animal. Legend has it that the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from earth. Only twelve came to bid him farewell and as a reward he named a year after each one in the order they arrived. The Chinese believe the animal ruling the year in which a person is born has a profound influence on personality, saying: "This is the animal that hides in your heart."

We are moving into the year of the Ox. Oxen are born leaders, inspiring confidence in everyone they come into contact with. However, they can be too demanding. Methodical and good with their hands, they make fine surgeons and hairdressers.

Recognising the Parts of Speech

One of the keys to good writing is understanding the countless ways in which basic sentence structures can be combined and arranged.

There are nine parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and interjections. Except for interjections ("ouch!"), which have a habit of standing alone, and articles (a, an, the), which stand in front of nouns, the parts of speech come in many varieties and may appear just about anywhere in a sentence.

It is important to look not only at the word itself but also at its meaning, position, and use in a sentence. For instance, the example below shows the confusing use of the word 'work'. In the first sentence below, work is a noun; in the second sentence, a verb; and in the third sentence, an adjective:

- Ricky showed up for **work** two hours late.
[The noun work is the thing Ricky shows up for.]
- He will have to **work** until midnight.
[The verb work is the action he must perform.]
- His **work** permit expires next month.
[The adjective work modifies the noun permit.]

Being able to recognise and confidently use the parts of speech will also further improve your understanding of other lessons in grammar and composition.

Events Calendar Jan 2009

- 1st Jan: The First Day of January - RTL Closed
- 10th Jan: Trinity Test - Deadline for booking a test
- 26th Jan: Lunar New Year's Day - RTL Closed
- 27th Jan: The Second Day of Lunar New Year - RTL Closed
- 28th Jan: The Third Day of Lunar New Year - RTL Closed

New Teachers

Please welcome our newest members of staff!



Mr Lee Kozaack is from Vancouver, Canada. He has been in Hong Kong for 7 months now and is fascinated by the many kinds of boats that can be seen in and around the harbour. He wishes to pursue the Arts and Culture of Hong Kong more. He enjoys the diligence of the students at RTL and believes they have an important role to play in the future of Hong Kong.

Miss Lisa Mailer was born and brought up in Hong Kong. She attended university in Scotland where she received a degree in International Relations Finance Management but returned to Hong Kong to be with her family. She loves the convenience of the fast paced, bustling city. She enjoys the work at RTL and finds it very rewarding.



Word Search

p w r o o s t e r a
i d r a g o n z e i
g x d o g c f l h r
t n t o x r m u q a
u s i f u r o p h t
t n g g r a n h z c
n a e i a b k o s e
q k r r m b e r q n
g e a c s i y s h k
w m z d k t x e s e

rat	ox	tiger	rabbit
dragon	snake	horse	ram
monkey	rooster	dog	pig

Spotlight on Mr Adam and one of his classes



Mr Adam describes the class as eager and energetic. The class is currently half way through Level 2 and Mr Adam can see steady improvement being made from week to week.



Rain Chao
Favourite colour: purple
Favourite food: banana
Favourite animal: elephant



Ian Chan
Favourite colour: red
Favourite food: banana
Favourite animal: panda



Kiki Wong
Favourite colour: pink
Favourite food: candy
Favourite animal: fish



Wilson Lee
Favourite colour: blue
Favourite food: banana
Favourite animal: sea turtle