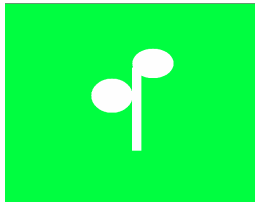


RENREN CHINESE 人人中文



好好学习
天天想上



A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

All about Language Usage

- English is likely still continue to be a language of political, commercial and cultural importance for generations to come. Yet as experts are warning us now, speaking English alone is not going to be enough for 21st century. Multi-lingual societies require citizens who are fluent in at least one other language other than their mother-tongue. This could put monolingual speakers at risk to a new type of illiteracy.
- The Oxford linguist Suzanne Romaine has claimed that bilingualism and multilingualism “are a normal and unremarkable necessity of everyday life for the majority of the world’s population.”
- Wikipedia states multi-lingual speakers outnumber monolingual speakers in the world’s population.
- The use of English online has increased by 281% over the past ten years. However this is far less than Spanish (743%), Chinese (1,277%), Russian (1,826%), or Arabic (2,501%).

What do you think?

A roadside sign in Campaign near UIUC campus.

It is written in Chinese,
means I love to learn



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**Ray
News
&
Events**

- Ray Chinese School will have a Chinese New Year celebration performance on Saturday, February 11th at Kennedy Jr. High School.
- A delegation from China QiaoBan (*China Overseas Exchanges Association Department of Culture And Education*) will visit Ray Chinese School on Sunday, February 5th. The delegation will present the Excellent Teaching Award to the best teachers.

每月一字

Word of
the
MonthWhat's in a Chinese Character
What's in a Chinese Character

zǎo

早

6 strokes

Written character

早饭: breakfast

早 means early or morning. It is the time of the day when the sun (日) has risen to the height of a man's helmet (十). 十 is the old form of 甲, originally meaning helmet. Since another meaning of 甲 is "first", the character 早 signifies also the first (十) sun (日), that is the early morning: 早.

.Practice Chinese Characters here:

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RCS Calendar and Holidays

February 2012

日	一	二	三	四	五	六
		1	2	3	4	
5	6 Lan-tern Festival	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2012

日	一	二	三	四	五	六
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 no Chinese school
25 no Chinese school	26	27	28	29	30	31 no Chinese school

Lantern Festival

dēng jié yuán xiāo jié

灯节 or 元宵节

Culture Express



The Lantern Festival falls on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month, usually in February or March in the Gregorian calendar. It is on Monday, February 6th for 2012. This day's important activity is watching lanterns. Lanterns of various shapes and sizes are hung in the streets, attracting countless visitors. Children will hold self-made or bought lanterns to stroll with on the streets, extremely excited. "Guessing lantern riddles" is an essential part of the Festival. Lantern owners write riddles on a piece of paper and post them on the lanterns. If visitors have solutions to the riddles, they can pull the paper out and go to the lantern owners to check their answer. If they are right, they will receive a small gift.

People will eat *yuanxiao*, or rice dumplings, on this day, so it is also called the "*Yuanxiao Festival*." *Yuanxiao* also has another name, *tangyuan*. It is small dumpling balls made of glutinous rice flour with rose petals, sesame, bean paste, jujube paste, walnut meat, dried fruit, sugar and edible oil as filling. *Tangyuan* can be boiled, fried or steamed. It tastes sweet and delicious. What's more, *tangyuan* in Chinese has a similar pronunciation with "*tuanyuan*", meaning reunion. So people eat them to denote union, harmony and happiness for the family. In the daytime of the Festival, performances such as a dragon lantern dance, a lion dance, a land boat dance, a *yangge* dance, walking on stilts and beating drums while dancing will be staged. In the night, except for magnificent lanterns, fireworks form a beautiful scene. Most families spare some fireworks from the Spring Festival and let them off in the Lantern Festival. Some local governments will even organize a fireworks party. On the night when the first full moon enters the New Year, people become really intoxicated by the imposing fireworks and bright moon in the sky.



Editor's Desk

You can watch news and Spring Festival performances on this website: <http://www.cntv.cn/>

Select English; click on Video button; you may put in the search words '2012 Spring Festival performance'