

LESSON NOTES

Video Culture Class: Hong Kong Holidays #13 Ya Festival

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TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 大家好，我是Olivia。
2. 歡迎收看「香港節日系列」。
3. 今集我們會介紹做牙，這是一個只有商家才會慶祝的節日。藉著每月兩次的土地神祭祀活動，祝願財神保佑生意興隆。
4. 除了香港，還有另一個地區都有做牙的習俗，你知道是哪裡嗎？我會在這影片最後公佈答案。
5. 一般來說，每個月的初二及16日都是做牙的日子。由農曆2月2日土地神誕日開始做「頭牙」，到一年最後的一次，在農曆12月16日舉行的「尾牙」。每一次都會以雞肉、豬肉、魚肉等肉類來拜祭土地神。而有包員工膳食的公司都會在做牙的日子加餸，膳食比平常豐富。
6. 做牙那天老闆會在吉時於放滿祭品的供桌前上香及拜祭土地神。他們祭祀的土地神，又叫土地公公，是中國民間信仰普遍的眾神之一。祭祀土地神的目的是主要為祈福、求財、和保平安。在香港一些舊區經常能看到店舖或住宅門外地上安放著供奉土地神的神主牌，小心不要踢倒啊！
7. 有些公司老闆在尾牙時會舉行聯歡聚餐以及發放年終獎金，來犒賞員工一年的辛勞。但原來尾牙還有一個有趣的習俗，從前如果公司決定在新一年解僱某位員工，就會在尾牙時把菜餚中雞的嘴指向他，讓他有被炒魷的心理準備。不過在現今社會，勞資雙方都盡量建立和諧的關係，所以不會再那樣做，而尾牙時亦會將「雞頭」朝上，以免雞嘴指向任何一位員工。
8. 而「做牙」時用來拜土地神的燒豬，在儀式之後會分送給員工，俗稱「分豬肉」。而這詞也成了香港的流行語，意思是比喻頒獎禮「每個人都有獎」的情況。
9. 現在就來揭曉問題的答案。

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10. 除了香港，還有另一個地區都有做牙的習俗，你知道是哪裡嗎？
11. 有做牙的習俗的地區，除了香港，還有台灣。而尾牙的時候，台灣的應節食物是割包。吃法如西方的三文治，把肉類夾在割包裡一起吃。
12. 你覺得這一集怎麼樣？有沒有學到一些有趣的知識？在你的國家，有沒有一個類似的節日呢？在CantoneseClass101.com留言，和我們分享吧。
13. 下次見！

ENGLISH

1. Hello, everybody, I'm Olivia.
2. Welcome to the Hong Kong Holiday Series.
3. In this lesson, we will talk about the Ya Festival, a festival that is only celebrated by merchants and traders. By carrying out the festival twice a month, the merchants wish for blessings from the God of Fortunes and Virtues, so business will be prosperous.
4. In addition to Hong Kong, there is another region that also practices the Ya Festival celebration – do you know where it is? We'll show you the answer at the end of this video.
5. In general, the second and sixteenth of every lunar month are Ya Festival. The Touya, "First Ya of the year", is on February 2 of the Lunar calendar, that is also the birthday of the God of Fortunes and Virtues. And Weiya, the "Last Ya of the year", is held on December 16 of the Lunar calendar. On each Ya Festival, meat such as chicken, pork, and fish is offered to the God of Fortunes and Virtues. For those companies that provide meals for staff, there will be more meat than usual on Ya Festivals.

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6. On Ya Festivals, bosses will bow and burn incense for the God of Fortunes and Virtues in front of the altar table that is filled with meat and offerings. This God of Fortunes and Virtues that they worship is also called "Earth God". He is one of the Gods commonly worshipped by Chinese people for good fortune, wealth, and well-being. In some old districts in Hong Kong, spirit tablets for him can be seen in front of shops and residential doors; be careful not to kick it!
7. For Weiya, some bosses hold a year-end banquet and give out year-end bonuses, to reward employees for their year of hard work. But actually there is an interesting Weiya custom - in the past, if the company decided to dismiss an employee in the new year, they would point the beak of the chicken in chicken dishes towards that person at the banquet as a hint. However, in modern society, both employers and employees try to establish a harmonious relationship, so this custom is rarely seen today; now the chicken head will point upwards to avoid pointing at any employees.
8. The roasted pigs used as offerings on Ya Festival are split up and distributed to employees after the ceremony; this is commonly known as "pork distribution". It has become a buzzword in Hong Kong, meaning that "everyone gets a prize" in award ceremonies.
9. And now I'll give you the answer to the earlier quiz.
10. In addition to Hong Kong, there is another region that also practices the Ya Festival celebration, do you know where it is?
11. In addition to Hong Kong, Taiwan also celebrates Ya Festival. At the year-end banquet, Weiya, they eat steamed bun sandwiches. These are eaten like western sandwiches, with meat placed in the middle of the bun.
12. How was this lesson? Did you learn a lot of interesting things? In your country, is there a festival similar to Ya Festival? Share with us by leaving a comment at CantoneseClass101.com.

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13. And I'll see you next time.

VOCABULARY

Traditional	Romanization	English	Class
做牙	zou6 ngaa4	Ya Festival	noun; verb
犒賞	hou3 soeng2	to reward	noun; verb
解僱	gaai2 gu3	dismissal; fire	verb
炒魷	caau2 jau2	to fire	verb
燒豬	siu1 zyu1	roasted pig	noun
儀式	ji4 sik1	ceremony	noun
流行語	lau4 hang4 jyu5	buzzword	noun
頒獎禮	baan1 zoeng2 lai5	award ceremony	noun
台灣	toi4 waan1	Taiwan	noun
年終獎金	nin4 zung1 zoeng2 gam1	year-end bonus	noun
求財	kau4 coi4	to ask for wealth	verb
祈福	kei4 fuk1	to pray for good fortune	verb
商家	soeng1 gaa1	merchant; tradesman	noun
土地神	tou2 dei6 san4	God of Fortunes and Virtues	noun
生意興隆	sang1 ji3 hing1 lung4	prosperity in business	idiom
頭牙	tau4 ngaa4	Touya; "First Ya of the year"	noun

尾牙	mei5 ngaa4	Weiya; the "Last Ya of the year"	noun
膳食	sin6 sik6	meal	noun
豐富	fung1 fu3	plentiful	adjective
祭祀	zai3 zi6	to worship a divine being	verb
應節	jing3 zit3	to celebrate a festival	verb; adjective