

2 Reading and grammar

Read about customs in China. Choose the correct words.

When it's New Year in China, we have a big festival. But there are lots of jobs to do before New Year's Day. You ¹ should/shouldn't always clean your house. But you ² should/shouldn't carry the dirt outside through the front door. If you do that, you'll have bad luck. You ³ should/shouldn't take the dirt outside through the back door! You ⁴ should/shouldn't wash your hair before New Year. You ⁵ should/shouldn't wash it on New Year's Day – that's too late. For Chinese people, red is a lucky colour, so you ⁶ should/shouldn't wear red clothes and you ⁷ should/shouldn't put red things in your house. You ⁸ should/shouldn't use bad words on New Year's Day – that's also unlucky.

And we also ⁹ should/shouldn't cry! Chinese people say, 'If you cry on New Year's Day, you'll cry the whole year.' I always say to my mother, 'Remember, you ¹⁰ should/shouldn't shout at me, because then I will cry and I won't stop crying for a year!'

