

Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

HISTORY OF THE FORTUNE COOKIES



(1) _____ [ONE] who has been to a Chinese restaurant has had, or at least seen, fortune cookies. These almond or vanilla (2) _____ [FLAVOUR] treats not only taste great, but they have a surprise inside – a small strip of paper with a prediction or (3) _____ [SAY] printed on it. The fortune cookie is a cookie with a piece of paper inside with words of supposed (4) _____ [WISE] and/or prophecy.

The idea of fortune cookies was introduced by Makoto Hagiwara at the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, as a (5) _____ [FRESH] to be taken while strolling the tea garden. This confection is said to be based on a Japanese food known as *tsujiura senbei*, which is associated with New Year festivities at *Shinto Shrines*.

The origins of the Fortune Cookie as we know it today were laid down by the Chinese 49'ers who worked on the (6) _____ [BUILD] of the great American railways through the Sierra Nevada into California. Work was very hard and (7) _____ [PLEASE] were few in isolated camps, those hard workers had only biscuits with happy messages inside, to (8) _____ [CHANGE] at the Moon festival instead of (9) _____ [TRADITION] cakes with happy messages, and thus the Fortune Cookie was born. Today it is almost impossible to have a Chinese meal in America and Canada without finishing with a Fortune Cookie.

After World War II, a number of (10) _____ [AMERICAN] Chinese restaurants copied the idea. Fortune cookies became very popular, served as a dessert after every meal at many restaurants. In addition to a fortune, fortune cookies may also contain (11) _____ [LUCK] numbers (used by some as lottery numbers) and a Chinese phrase with (12) _____ [TRANSLATE].

Although they are served almost (13) _____ [EXCLUSIVE] in Chinese restaurants abroad, fortune cookies are almost (14) _____ [KNOW] in China. Places that serve them call them "Genuine American Fortune Cookies".