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2010 Chinese New Year Couplets (Talismans) & the Kitchen God – A great school Chinese New Year project.

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“Enjoy the little things, one day you may look back and realise they were the big things”

Are you really prepared for 2010?



Chinese New Year Talismans Couplets and the Kitchen God are very traditional festive items that are used as wall decoration because of their auspicious nature. They are usually printed on black ink on bright red paper; it is recommended to hang these Chinese couplets around your home or on your main doors, or you can present them as gifts to send good wishes to your friends and family. These Talisman Couplets and the Kitchen God are a lovely gift to print and give as a present unconditionally to a friend, relative or co-worker on or around Chinese New Year although they can be given and placed at any time of the year.

These two projects below are a great activity for people of all ages, children will especially find this interesting as it teaches them the cultures of another country. If you are a school teacher please feel free to download this file and use it in your classroom. You can download the printer friendly version by the banners at the top and bottom of the page. This can also be saved to your computer hard drive so you can email onto friends and family

The Couplets/Talismans are usually used by most Chinese families and businesses. Whether they are in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Australia or the UK, they are very powerful and are said to deter all evil and bring peace, happiness and good fortunes to the occupants if they are displayed in the correct way as shown below. These are particularly good to use in 2010 as this can be a difficult year from a Feng Shui point of view.

Red is a very auspicious colour for the Chinese, it is said to frighten off the New Year monster "Nian" who arrives and destroys crops and homes. "Nian" has three weaknesses: noise, sunshine and the colour red. The Villagers used to build huge fires and would paint their doors to their houses red with red couplets, they would set off firecrackers to scare the "Nian" monster. Red also represents good fortune, fame and riches to the Chinese.

These Couplets/Talismans can be hung outside beside the main door and also inside in important rooms like the kitchen, bedroom and lounge. They are also hung either side of the cooker or hob. They are normally hung for two months after the New Year (26th January 2010) although many people leave them all year round for continued good luck.

Printing Instructions

I have copied below two versions, one you can print straight from your colour printer and the other you can colour in yourself or print onto red paper, this is a nice project to give to children and if you are a school teacher please feel free to print this out and use in your class, all we ask is you do not alter or change any of the text on there.

Black & white version:

If you have red card or paper (A4 size) you can print straight onto this or if you wish to make it a family affair you can get your children or yourself to colour it in. It is very common for the family to get involved and usually the head of the household is given the job of placing the couplets.

Make sure the paper/card or colour you use to colour-in is the same bright red as shown below.

Colour version:

This can be printed straight from your printer.

Hanging Instructions:

Cut the couplets in half from top to bottom and place either side of your main doors, you should also place on either side of your cooker or hob.

If you have access to a laminate machine it would be wise to laminate them or at least wrap them in a clear protective cover, this is more important for outside rather than the ones you hang by the cooker.

These are traditionally left on the door or cooker area for two months after Chinese New Year although many families leave them all year round for continued good luck but they must be renewed each year so save this document for every year and pass onto as many friends and families as you can as it is considered very auspicious to receive a couplet especially without charge.



Red Envelopes (Ang Pow)

Red envelopes also known as "red packets" "Ang Pow" "laisee" or "Hung-Bao" are also an important part of a traditional Chinese New Year. I have written an interesting article on this and also made another project should you wish to make your own. If you follow this link you will find more details. <http://www.fengshuiweb.co.uk/advice/angpow2010.htm>

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“Si Ji Ping An”

May you be blessed with peace
and safety in all seasons

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“Chu Ru Ping An”

May you be blessed with peace
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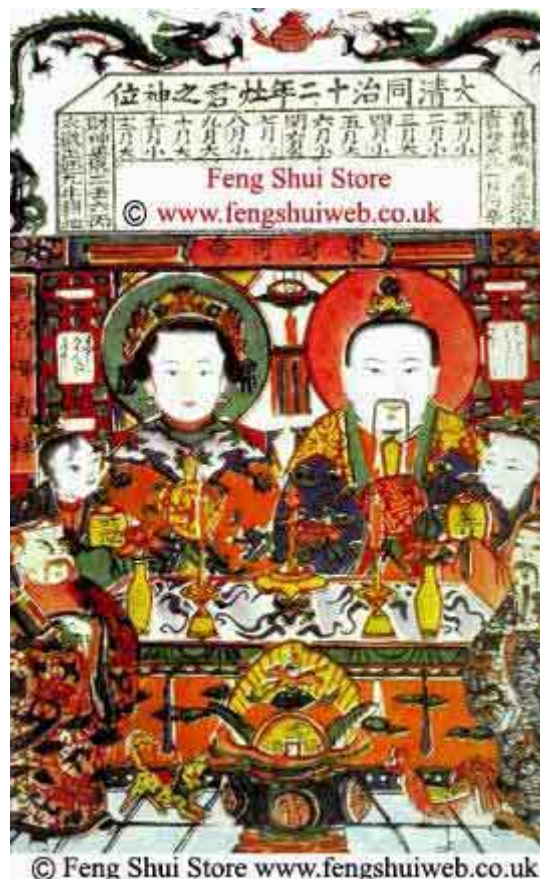
Kitchen God

The Kitchen God is seen as the guardian of the family hearth (cooker). He was regarded as the inventor of fire, which was necessary for cooking and was also the God of household morals. Traditionally, the Kitchen God left the house on the 23rd of the last month to report to heaven on the behaviours of the family. The family would do everything in their power to impress the Kitchen God so that he reported to heaven with good comments. On the evening of the 23rd, the family would give the Kitchen God a ritualistic goodbye dinner with sweet sticky foods and honey. Some would say that this was to bribe him; others would say that the sticky sweets and honey would seal his mouth from saying bad things about them.

Once they were free from the ever-watchful eyes of the Kitchen God, who was supposed to return on the first day of the New Year, the family now prepared for the upcoming celebrations.

Chinese New Year presents are similar in spirit to Christmas presents, although the Chinese tended more often to give food items, such as fruits and tea. The last days of the old year were also the time to settle accumulated debts.

The image below is the kitchen God with his Consort. It should be printed and placed above the oven or hob whichever is used most. You must renew the image every Chinese New Year.



Visit the pages below for further details on 2010 Chinese New Year etc.

[Chinese New Year 2010](#) ** [How to make your own Ang Pow](#) ** [Chinese Talismans for 2010](#)
** [Chinese animal predictions for 2010](#) ** [Flying star Xuan Kong 2010](#) ** [Salt Water cure information](#) ** [Avoid the fury of the Grand Duke, three killing 2010](#) ** [Chinese New Year world time converter 2010](#) ** [2010 Cures and enhancers kits](#) ** [How to take a compass reading](#) **
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Are you *really* prepared for 2010?

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