

# Welcome to Today's Class!

Today's Topic: February Holidays- **Lunar New Year** and **Mardi Gras**

February is full of celebrations around the world. This week we have Lunar New Year and Mardi Gras. What makes these holidays meaningful?

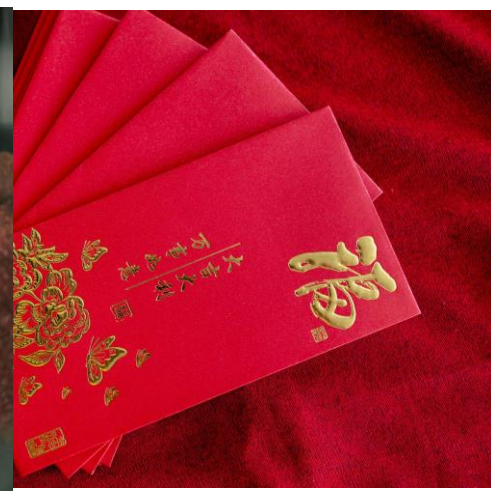
## Agenda:

1. Review vocabulary
2. Breakout room discussions
3. Large group wrap-up



# Lunar New Year

- Based on the lunar calendar
- Celebrated across China, Korea, Vietnam, and other Asian cultures
- Themes: renewal, ancestors, luck, prosperity
- Symbols: red (luck), dragons (power), envelopes (fortune)



# Mardi Gras

- French for “Fat Tuesday”
- Christian tradition before Lent
- Themes: indulgence, spectacle, excess
- Symbols: masks, beads, purple/green/gold
- Strongly associated with New Orleans



# Vocabulary

## Key Vocabulary:

1. renewal
2. opulence
3. restraint
4. revelry
5. spectacle
6. indulgence
7. commercialization
8. empowering



# Let's Talk: Discussion Questions

1. Do you celebrate Lunar New Year? Mardi Gras? Something similar? What is that like for you?
2. What do these two holidays have in common?
3. Do big festivals strengthen communities or create problems?
  - Is Mardi Gras empowering or excessive?
  - Is Lunar New Year more about family or is it too focused on money and prosperity?
4. Are public celebrations still important in modern society?