



CHOPSTICKS - ANCIENT & MODERN

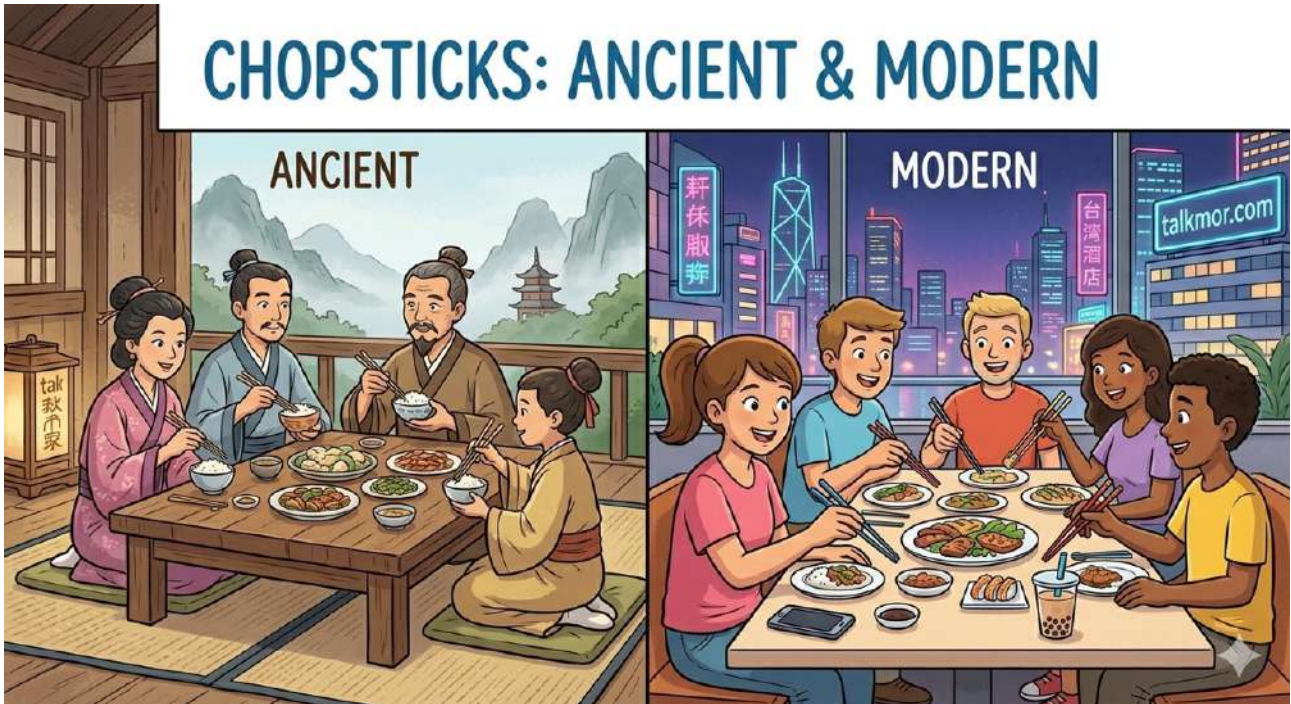
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PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: Chopsticks: Ancient & Modern – Reading & Comprehension

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 20–30 minutes



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
utensils	tools used for eating	yoo-TEN-sils
etiquette	polite and correct behaviour	ET-i-ket
disposable	made to be used once and then thrown away	dis-POH-zuh-bul
eco-friendly	good for the environment	EE-ko-FREND-lee
incense	a substance burned for religious ceremonies	IN-sens

Spot the Differences

Look closely at the image. Discuss with your partner what has changed over thousands of years.

- The Clothing:** Describe what the people are wearing on the left versus the right.
- The Technology:** What modern objects are visible on the table on the right side?
- The Environment:** How has the background view changed (look out the window/behind the traditional building)?
- The Object:** Look at the chopsticks. What are the differences in **material** and **color**?

Reading Passage

Chopsticks: Ancient & Modern

Chopsticks are one of the oldest eating tools in the world. People in China have used them for more than 3,000 years.

Ancient Times

Chopsticks began as simple cooking tools. People used them to stir hot food and take pieces from large pots. Over time, they became eating utensils. Early chopsticks were made from bamboo, wood, or bone. In ancient China, using chopsticks showed good manners and respect for others.

Modern Times

Today, chopsticks are used every day by millions of people across East Asia. They are usually made of wood, bamboo, plastic, or metal. In many restaurants, people receive disposable wooden chopsticks. Some modern chopsticks even have beautiful designs or are made from eco-friendly materials.

Etiquette (Good Manners)

There are important rules when using chopsticks. Never stick them upright in rice (it looks like incense for the dead). Do not point at people with chopsticks. Do not use them to pass food from one person to another. Always place them neatly on the table when you finish eating.

Chopsticks are not just tools — they are part of a rich culture and history.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

1. Chopsticks are a very new invention.
2. Chopsticks were first used only for eating.
3. It is polite to stick chopsticks upright in rice.
4. Chopsticks are an important part of East Asian culture.

B. Multiple Choice

1. What were chopsticks first used for?
 - a) Only for eating rice
 - b) For cooking and taking food from large pots
 - c) For writing letters
2. Which is **not** good chopstick etiquette?
 - a) Placing them neatly on the table after eating
 - b) Sticking them upright in a bowl of rice
 - c) Using them to pick up pieces of food

C. Short Answer

1. What is one big difference between ancient and modern chopsticks?
2. Why is it important to learn good chopstick manners?