



FORTUNE COOKIES AREN'T CHINESE

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Warm-up 🤔 **What Do You Think?** Discuss with a partner.

1. Have you ever eaten a fortune cookie? Where do you usually get fortune cookies?
2. Which country do you think invented fortune cookies?
3. What is the funniest fortune you have ever read?



Fortune Cookies Aren't Chinese!

Have you ever eaten at a Chinese restaurant and received a fortune cookie at the end of your meal? Most people think these crispy little cookies came from China. After all, they are served in Chinese restaurants around the world.

But here's the surprise—they probably weren't invented in China at all!

Many historians believe fortune cookies were first made in California, USA, more than 100 years ago. Some people think a Japanese immigrant created them, while others believe they came from a bakery in San Francisco. Although no one knows the complete story, most experts agree that fortune cookies are an American invention.

So why are they connected with Chinese restaurants? After World War II, many Chinese restaurants in the United States began serving fortune cookies to their customers. People loved opening the cookies to discover a small paper message inside. Soon, fortune cookies became a fun tradition after a meal.

Today, millions of fortune cookies are made every day and enjoyed by people all over the world. They may not tell your future, but they certainly make people smile.

So, the next time you open a fortune cookie, remember—you might be enjoying a famous American invention instead of a traditional Chinese one!

Pronunciation Focus

Listen. Repeat. Say the words clearly.

Word	Sounds Like
fortune	FOR-chun
crispy	KRIS-pee
invented	in-VEN-tid
historians	his-TOR-ee-unz
immigrant	IM-i-grunt
bakery	BAY-kuh-ree
experts	EK-spurts
customers	KUS-tuh-murz
tradition	truh-DISH-un
invention	in-VEN-shun

Vocabulary Match

Match the words (1–10) with their meanings (A–J).

Words

- Fortune
- Tradition
- Bakery
- Immigrant
- Message
- Popular
- Surprise
- Customer
- Recipe
- Predict

Meanings

- A person who buys something from a shop or restaurant.
- Instructions for making food.
- A custom or belief that people follow for many years.
- To say what you think will happen in the future.
- A short piece of information written or spoken to someone.
- A place where bread, cakes and cookies are made or sold.
- Something unexpected.
- A person who moves to another country to live there.
- Liked by many people.
- Luck or what may happen in the future.

Reading Comprehension

- Where do many people think fortune cookies came from?
- Where were fortune cookies probably invented?
- Who helped make them popular?
- Why do people enjoy opening fortune cookies?
- What message surprised you most in the story?
- True or False: Fortune cookies were first made in China.
- True or False: Many people are surprised by their real origin.
- Would you like to try one? Why?



Did You Know?

Over **3 billion** fortune cookies are made every year—mostly in the United States!

Teacher's Key

Vocabulary Match

Match the words (1–10) with their meanings (A–J).

Words

1. Fortune
2. Tradition
3. Bakery
4. Immigrant
5. Message
6. Popular
7. Surprise
8. Customer
9. Recipe
10. Predict

Meanings

- A. A person who buys something from a shop or restaurant.
- B. Instructions for making food.
- C. A custom or belief that people follow for many years.
- D. To say what you think will happen in the future.
- E. A short piece of information written or spoken to someone.
- F. A place where bread, cakes and cookies are made or sold.
- G. Something unexpected.
- H. A person who moves to another country to live there.
- I. Liked by many people.
- J. Luck or what may happen in the future.

Teacher's Key

- 1 – J
- 2 – C
- 3 – F
- 4 – H
- 5 – E
- 6 – I
- 7 – G
- 8 – A
- 9 – B
- 10 – D