

## Happy New Year

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Time flies so fast. The year of 2010 is coming! Every country, in its own way, welcomes the New Year and says goodbye to the old year. Each has special and interesting traditions to express their hopes and wishes.

Spain: 12 grapes for good luck (人人争抢吃葡萄)

New Year's Eve in Spain is usually for family get together with music and games. People keep 12 grapes ready and as the clock strikes 12 midnight they eat one each stroke to secure 12 happy months in the coming year. Adults are supposed to make children as happy as possible on New Year's Day because it is believed to be ominous if children quarrel or cry on that day.

Italy: toss out the old things (摔摔大打过新年)

Italy's tradition is to throw gadgets on the floor to see them break into tiny pieces. People also toss out old things in the hopes of forgetting past misfortunes and clearing the decks for good luck in the New Year.

India: New Year wailing (哭泣节食迎新年)

New Year is a time for joy for most places, but not for some regions in India. People gather to wail together to mourn flying time and a short life, which New Year marks in their opinion. People in other regions go on a diet to enter the coming year.

Switzerland: do sports on 1st day (运动健身迎元旦)

People in Switzerland enjoy sports on New Year's Day. Some climb mountains, some ski along snow-covered forest trails. All these activities are meant as wishes for good health in the coming year.

Greece: eat a cake with a coin (银币蛋糕饱含祝福)

On New Year's Day in Greece, a special cake is made inside a coin is hidden. The cake is cut into several pieces and shared by family and friend. Legend has it that the person who has the slice of cake with the coin inside will enjoy good luck for the rest of the year. People send him or her their congratulations.

England: well water drenches new year (打第一桶水求吉利)

Every British family is supposed to make sure that they have enough wine and meat on December 31, or the result will be poverty in the coming year. Meanwhile, people in some regions contend to be the first person to draw well water, because it is believed to be good luck and to bring happiness to that person in the New Year.