The Oxford English Dictionary for Chinese users: Resources to support teaching and academic research

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The *Oxford English Dictionary*

- Senses are ordered chronologically.
- The full history of English over 1000 years—obsolete and disused words and senses are included.
- Each sense has dated quotations with citation information.
- Each entry has a detailed etymology.
- A full history of forms is provided for each entry.
hongbao

Pronunciation /ˈhɔŋbɔʊ/ 🎧

**NOUN** (plural noun hongbao, plural noun hongbaos)

A traditional Chinese gift of money presented in a red envelope.

More example sentences

‘if you don’t give a hongbao, you’ll stand out’

**Origin**
From Chinese (Mandarin) hóngbāo, literally ‘red packet’.
hongbao, n.


Inflections: Plural unchanged, hongbao.

Forms: 1900s– hongbao, 1905s– hongbao.

Frequency (in current use): ••••••••


A traditional Chinese good luck gift of money. Also: the red envelope in which this gift is presented. Cf. lucky money n. at LUCKY adj. Compounds, red packet n. at RED adj. and n. Compounds 1f(c)(i).

1980 S. A. CARSTENS Images Community in Chinese Malaysian Settlement (Ph.D. diss., Cornell Univ.) iv. 114 Hong baos are given by guests at weddings and funerals to help defray the cost of these feasts.

1991 C. STEPANCHUK & C. WONG Mooncakes & Hungry Ghosts 38 During the New Year, lucky lions are visible everywhere...promising good luck to merchants in exchange for red hongbao packets filled with money.

2001 E. P. LOZADA God Aboveground vi. 116 She finally accepted the tea and handed the bride a hongbao.

2013 Straits Times (Singapore) 23 Aug. (Home section) 8/3 Sometimes she earns extra by getting hongbao, or red packets. While these usually amount to $10 or $20, she once received one that contained $100.
**moon-cake** *n.* [after Chinese *yuèbì* ˊ*ng* < *yuè* moon + *bì* ˊ*ng* cake] a round cake traditionally eaten during Chinese mid-autumn festivities.

1688  tr. G. de Magalhães *New Hist. China* xx. 318  The preceding Days they send to one another Presents of little Loaves and Sugar-Cakes, which they call *Yue Pim*, or Moon-Cakes. They are round,...and represent the Full Moon.

1866  J. Doolittle *Social Life Chinese* (new ed.) II. iii. 66  Some of these ‘moon-cakes’ have a white rabbit, engaged with his pounder, painted on one side.

1938  C. Yee *Silent Traveller in London* 38  At this time [sc. mid-September] all the sweet-shops produce a great variety of seasonable cakes, which we call ‘Moon-Cake’, and those especially which are made in Canton in South China are very famous.

1986  *Sunday Mail (New Delhi)* 21 Sept. 12 (adv.)  And the mooncakes simmer with sweet and savoury secrets. As the darkness deepens, pearly moonbeams cast their spell on you.

2012  T. E. Tan *Garden of Evening Mists* x. 139  Old Mr Ong…used to hold moon-watching parties. We’d see his children playing with lanterns. His first wife always gave us moon-cakes.
How the *OED* selects words to include

- Monitoring language corpora
- Running a reading programme
- Analyzing the content of published historical and current dictionaries and scholarly work on the English lexicon
- Searching through large databases of historical and modern text
- Asking for and responding to contributions from the public
How the *OED* selects words to include

• *OED* editors assess candidates for inclusion by carefully researching electronic and paper research databases to make sure that there are several independent examples of the word being used, for a reasonable amount of time and reasonable frequency in the places one would expect to find them.

• Time spans and frequency thresholds vary

• Apart from frequency, the cultural, historical, and linguistic significance of words is also considered
How to find words in the *OED*

- Single-word look-up
How to find words in the OED
How to find words in the *OED*
Chinese words in the OED

• To date, the OED includes over 250 entries for words originating in different varieties of the Chinese language. The following is a small selection
  – bao, bok choy, cheongsam, feng shui, hongbao, ketchup, mee, oolong, qi, Shih Tzu, tai chi, taipan, tao, wok, wonton
《牛津英语大辞典》（The Oxford English Dictionary，OED）：中国用户资源中心

关于OED

《牛津英语大辞典》（简称OED）是一部受广泛认可的权威英语词典。它是一部绝佳的参考资料，为过去和现在英语地区使用的60多万个英语词汇的释义、历史和发音给予指导。

作为一部探究英语词汇历史的词典，OED与侧重词汇当代释义的现代英语词典截然不同。你不仅能在OED中找到每个词语的现代释义，还能从经典文学、专业期刊、电影剧本和烹饪书籍等上面引用的300多万条引文中追溯溯源，查找单个词汇乃至英语语言的历史。

The OED resources page in Chinese: http://tiny.cc/OED-Resources-Chinese
Loanwords and World Englishes in the *OED*

  - established loanwords
  - non-standard spellings
  - few awareness of their Chinese origin
  - regular spellings
  - cultural impact found in new fields
  - influx of words from regional varieties of English
  - ‘bad’ English?
OED for pedagogical use

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- Word origin
- Quotations
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- …
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