

## Chinese Conversation Corner (Week 1, Semester 2, 2020)

### 中国人的筷子文化

#### Chopsticks in Chinese Culture

#### 一、 中国人的筷子文化。 Chopsticks in Chinese Culture

##### 1. 起源和名称 origin and names

筷子是由中国古代汉族人发明的一种非常具有民族特色的进食工具。可由竹、木、骨头、玉石、金属、化学等材料制作。中国人开始使用筷子，大约在三千多年前。先秦时称“桼”，汉代时叫“箸”，明代时叫“筷”。

Chopsticks are a kind of eating utensil with distinct cultural characteristics created by the ancient Han Chinese. They can be made of bamboo, wood, bone, jade, metal and other materials. The history of Chinese people using chopsticks dates back over 3,000 years. They were called “jia” in the Pre-Qin dynasty, “zhu” in the Han dynasty, and “kuai” in the Ming dynasty.

##### 2. 用筷子的礼仪 etiquette of using chopsticks

筷子要直、齐，而且一定要成双成对使用，体现了中国人的中正、和为贵、团结的文化观念。使用筷子需要注意礼节，比如吃饭时，应请长辈或客人先下筷子，不能把筷子含在嘴里、不能用筷子敲打碗盘、不能用筷子对着人或用餐时拿筷子指手画脚、不能将筷子插入碗里的米饭或面条中、不能用筷子挑拣食物、不能倒过来用筷子等。

Used in pairs, chopsticks are straight and both have the same length, reflecting the concepts of uprightness, harmony, and solidarity in Chinese culture. There are certain etiquettes which should be observed when using chopsticks. Some examples are: let the elderly or guests use their chopsticks to try the food first, do not put your chopsticks in your mouth, do not hit the bowls or plates with them, do not point your chopsticks at other people or make gestures with them, do not stick them upright into a bowl of rice or noodles, do not pick and choose food with chopsticks and do not use chopsticks upside down.

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### 3. 筷子对中国人的意义 The meaning of chopsticks to Chinese

qǐdí 启迪 enlighten	sīniàn 思念 to miss, to long for
chuánchéng 传承 pass down, inherit	mùlín 睦邻 get along with one's neighbors
mínglǐ 明礼 understand etiquette	shǒuwàng 守望 to keep watch, on guard
guānài 关爱 love and care	gǎnēn 感恩 being thankful & feel grateful

#### 二、 请讨论。 Please talk about the below questions.

zhōngguó rén yòng kuàizi de lìshǐ yǒu duōjiǔ

1. 中国人用筷子的历史有多久？

How long have Chinese people been using chopsticks for?

kuàizi de qítā míngchēng shì shénme wèishénme

2. 筷子的其他名称是什么？为什么？

What have chopsticks been called previously? Why?

3. shǐyòng kuàizi de shíhou yīnggāi zhùyì shénme

使用筷子的时候应该注意什么？

What should to pay attention to when using chopsticks?

4. qǐng nǐ tán tán kuàizi duì zhōngguó rén de yìyì

请你谈谈筷子对中国人的意义。

Please talk about what chopsticks mean to Chinese people.