Discuss holidays and special occasions
Describe celebrations, annual events, and customs

1 SNAPSHOT

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

Day of the Dead
November 2nd
Mexicans make playful skeleton sculptures and bake pan de muerto – bread of the dead.

Chinese New Year
January or February
Chinese people celebrate the lunar new year with fireworks and dragon dances.

Saint Patrick’s Day
March 17th
People of Irish background wear green to celebrate their culture with parades, dancing, parties, and special foods.

Thanksgiving
November
In the United States, families get together, have a traditional meal, and give thanks for life and health.

Do you celebrate these or similar holidays in your country?
What other special days do you have?
What’s your favorite holiday or festival?

2 WORD POWER  Ways to celebrate

A Which word or phrase is not usually paired with each verb?
Put a line through it. Then compare with a partner.

1. eat  candy  sweets  a mask
2. give  presents  a celebration  money
3. go to  decorations  a wedding  a party
4. have a picnic  beach  meal
5. play games  candles  music
6. send  cards  flowers  a barbecue
7. visit  relatives  food  close friends
8. watch  a birthday  a parade  fireworks
9. wear  costumes  invitations  traditional clothes

B  PAIR WORK  Do you do any of the things in part A as part of a cultural or family celebration? When? Tell your partner.
3 PERSPECTIVES Favorite celebrations

A Listen to these comments about special days of the year. Match them to the correct pictures.

1. “My favorite celebration is Mother’s Day. It’s a day when my husband and my kids make pancakes for me – just like I used to make for my mom – and I get to have breakfast in bed.”
2. “February 14th is the day when people give cards and presents to the ones they love. I’m really looking forward to Valentine’s Day! I already have a gift for my boyfriend.”
3. “New Year’s Eve is a night when I have fun with my friends. We usually have a big party. We stay up all night and then go out for breakfast in the morning.”

B PAIR WORK What do you like about each celebration in part A?

4 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Relative clauses of time

Mother’s Day is a day when my kids make pancakes for me.
February 14th is the day when people give cards and presents to the ones they love.
New Year’s Eve is a night when I have fun with my friends.

A How much do you know about these times? Complete the sentences in column A with information from column B. Then compare with a partner.

A
1. Mother’s Day is a day when ______ .
2. New Year’s Eve is a night when ______ .
3. April Fools’ Day is a day when ______ .
4. Valentine’s Day is a day when ______ .
5. Labor Day is a day when ______ .
6. Summer is a time when ______ .

B
a. people sometimes play tricks on friends.
b. people celebrate their mothers.
c. many people like to go to the beach.
d. people in many countries honor workers.
e. people express their love to someone.
f. people have parties with family and friends.

B Complete these sentences with your own information. Then compare with a partner.

Winter is the season . . .
Birthdays are days . . .
Spring is the time of year . . .

Children’s Day is a day . . .
July and August are the months . . .
A wedding anniversary is a time . . .
LISTENING  Time for Carnival!

A Listen to Vanessa talk about her trip to Carnival in Brazil. Write three facts about Carnival that she mentions.

B Listen again and answer these questions about Vanessa’s experience.
- Why did she have to book her hotel six months early?
- What happened when Vanessa got lost?
- What was her favorite thing about Carnival? Why?

PAIR WORK Think of another famous celebration that is similar to Carnival. Describe it to the class. They will try to guess the celebration.

SPEAKING  Favorite holidays

PAIR WORK Choose your three favorite holidays. Tell your partner why you like each one.

A: I really like Independence Day.
B: What do you like about it?
A: It’s a day when we watch parades and fireworks.
B: Do you do anything special?
A: We usually have a barbecue. My father makes burgers, and my mother makes her special potato salad.

CLASS ACTIVITY Take a class vote. What are the most popular holidays in your class?

WRITING  An online entry

Write an entry for a travel website about a festival or celebration where you live. When is it? How do people celebrate it? What should a visitor see and do?

Obon is an annual event when Japanese people commemorate their ancestors. They visit and clean the graves of their dead relatives. People put candles in lanterns and float them on rivers. There are neighborhood dances at parks, gardens, and . . .

PAIR WORK Read your partner’s entry. What do you like about it? Can you suggest anything to improve it?
CONVERSATION  A traditional wedding

A Listen and practice.

ANUSHA Yes. It's a sari, actually. In India, when women get married, they usually wear a brightly colored sari, not a white dress.

ANUSHA Well, in some traditions, after the groom arrives, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers. We did that. But we didn't do some other traditional things.

ANUSHA Oh, no, we did that part. My mom stole them!

JULIA Is this a picture from your wedding, Anusha?

JULIA And was this your wedding dress?

ANUSHA Yes, we had the ceremony in India.

JULIA It's beautiful! So, what are weddings like in India?

ANUSHA Well, before the wedding, the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate. But I'm an only child, and I don't have any female cousins, so we skipped that.

JULIA Oh? Like what?

ANUSHA Well, before the wedding, the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate. But I'm an only child, and I don't have any female cousins, so we skipped that.

JULIA That makes sense. You know, I have heard about this one tradition. . . . When the groom takes off his shoes, the bride's sisters steal them! I guess you didn't do that, either?

ANUSHA Oh, no, we did that part. My mom stole them!

B Listen to the rest of the conversation.

What does Anusha say about her wedding reception?

PRONUNCIATION  Stress and rhythm

A Listen and practice. Notice how stressed words and syllables occur with a regular rhythm.

When women get married, they usually wear a brightly colored sari.

B Listen to the stress and rhythm in these sentences. Then practice them.

1. After the groom arrives, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers.
2. Before the wedding, the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate.
3. When the groom takes off his shoes, the bride's sisters steal them.

Time to celebrate!
GRAMMAR FOCUS
Adverbial clauses of time

When women get married, they usually wear a brightly colored sari.
After the groom arrives, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers.
Before the wedding, the bride’s female relatives usually have a party to celebrate.

A What do you know about wedding customs in North America?
Complete these sentences with the information below.
1. Before a man and woman get married, they usually ____
2. When a couple gets engaged, the man often ____
3. Right after a couple gets engaged, they usually ____
4. When a woman gets married, she usually ____
5. When guests go to a wedding, they almost always ____
6. Right after a couple gets married, they usually ____

a. wears a long white dress and a veil.  
d. gives the woman an engagement ring.
b. go on a short trip called a “honeymoon.”  
e. begin to plan the wedding.
c. give the bride and groom gifts or some money.  
f. date each other for a year or more.

B PAIR WORK What happens when people get married in your country?
Tell your partner by completing the statements in part A with your own information. Pay attention to stress and rhythm.

INTERCHANGE 8 It’s worth celebrating.

How do your classmates celebrate special occasions? Go to Interchange 8 on page 122.

SPEAKING My personal traditions

A GROUP WORK How do you usually celebrate the dates below? Share your personal traditions with your classmates.
your birthday  New Year’s Eve  your country’s national day  your favorite holiday

A: On my birthday, I always wear new clothes, and I often have a party. What about you?
B: I usually celebrate my birthday with my family. We have a special meal and some relatives come over.
C: I used to celebrate my birthday at home, but now I usually go out with friends.

B CLASS ACTIVITY Tell the class the most interesting traditions you talked about in your group. Do you share any common traditions? Did you use to celebrate those dates the same way when you were younger?
READING

A Skim the article. Which of these phrases could be a title for this article?

- The best New Year's resolutions
- New Year's traditions around the world
- How to host a New Year's Eve party

B Read the article. Check (√) True or False for each statement about New Year's customs. Then correct each false statement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In Ireland, people eat loaves of bread for good luck.</td>
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<td>2. They eat apples for good luck in Spain.</td>
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<td>3. In China, people change the color of their doors.</td>
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<td>4. In Colombia, they burn a doll with old things inside.</td>
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<td>5. In Germany, people watch Dinner for One because it's about New Year's Eve.</td>
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</tbody>
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C What do the underlined words in the article refer to? Write the correct word.

1. them
2. this
3. one
4. They
5. they

D What do people in your country do for the New Year? What is your favorite New Year's tradition?