# 8 Time to celebrate!

## 1 Complete this paragraph with the words in the box.

- [ ] get together
- [ ] music
- [ ] fireworks
- [ ] decorations
- [x] holidays
- [ ] customs
- [ ] picnic
- [ ] celebrate

One of the most important national __holidays__ in the United States is Independence Day. This is the day when Americans _____ winning their independence from Britain almost 250 years ago. There are many _____ for Independence Day. Most towns, big and small, mark this holiday with parades and _____. They put up a lot of _____, usually in red, white, and blue, the colors of the U.S. flag. Bands play patriotic _____. It's also a day when many Americans _____ with family and friends to celebrate with a barbecue or a _____.

## 2 Complete the sentences with the clauses in the box.

- [ ] when I feel sad and depressed
- [ ] when people have to pay their taxes
- [ ] when school starts
- [ ] when summer vacation begins

1. I hate April 15! In the United States, it's the day _____.
   I always owe the government money.
2. June is my favorite month. It's the month _____.
   I always go straight to the beach.
3. September is my least favorite month. It's the month _____.
   Good-bye, summer!
4. I've never liked winter. It's a season _____. The cold weather always affects my mood negatively.

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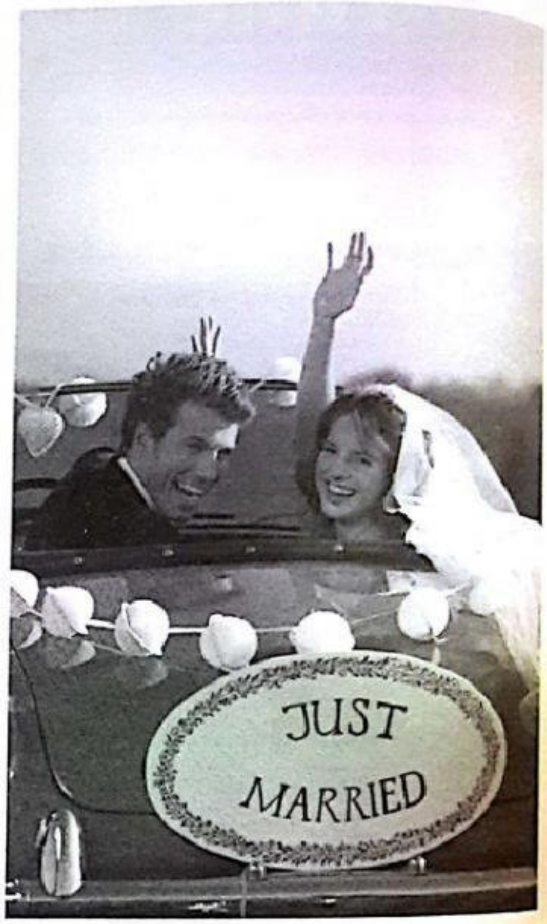
## 3 Special days

**A** Use words from the box to complete the sentences.

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ February | ☐ tricks |
| ☑ June | ☐ wedding |
| ☐ anniversary | ☐ presents |
| ☐ party | ☐ fireworks |




1. June is the time of year when there are a lot of weddings in the U.S.
2. We always have a _____ at our house on New Year's Eve.
3. Janice and Nick are getting married soon. They plan to have a small _____ with just a few family members.
4. Valentine's Day is on _____ 14th every year.
5. My friends and family gave me some very nice _____ on my birthday.
6. People like to play _____ on each other on April Fools' Day.
7. On the Fourth of July, many people shoot _____ into the sky at night.
8. Tomorrow is my parents' 25th wedding _____.

**B** Use the cues in parentheses to create sentences with relative clauses of time.

1. (Thanksgiving / a day / people spend time with their families)
   Thanksgiving is a day when people spend time with their families.
2. (Spring / the season / flowers start to bloom)
   _____
3. (New Year's Eve / a night / people celebrate new beginnings)
   _____
4. (The weekend / a time / people relax)
   _____
5. (Father's Day / a day / children spend time with their fathers)
   _____
6. (Winter / the season / we go skiing)
   _____



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## 4 A lot to celebrate!

**A** Read about these special days in the United States. Do you celebrate any of them in your country?

| EVENT | | DAY | HOW PEOPLE CELEBRATE IT |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 3rd Monday in January | People honor the life and work of the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. |
| | Valentine's Day | February 14th | People give chocolates, flowers, and gifts to the ones they love. |
| | April Fools' Day | April 1st | This is a day when people play tricks on friends. Websites sometimes post funny stories or advertise fake products. |
| | Mother's Day | 2nd Sunday in May | People honor their mothers by giving cards and gifts. They may also have a family gathering. |
| | Father's Day | 2nd Sunday in June | People honor their fathers by giving them cards and presents. They may also have a family gathering. |
| | Independence Day | July 4th | Americans celebrate their country's independence from Britain. There are parades and fireworks. |
| | Labor Day | 1st Monday in September | People honor workers and celebrate the end of summer. Many people have barbecues with friends and family. |
| | Thanksgiving | 4th Thursday in November | People celebrate the fall season by eating a big dinner, often with turkey, with family members and friends. |

**B** Complete the chart. Check (✓) the correct answers.

| | Americans give gifts on: | Americans don't give gifts on: |
|---|---|---|
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Valentine's Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| April Fools' Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Mother's Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Father's Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Independence Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Labor Day | ☐ | ☐ |
| Thanksgiving | ☐ | ☐ |



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