



Traditional celebrations are very interesting and also different all over the world. Let's learn about cultural differences...

### 1. Reading Comprehension. Read this magazine article about New Years' Days.

#### When is New Year's Day?

Calendars from around the world.

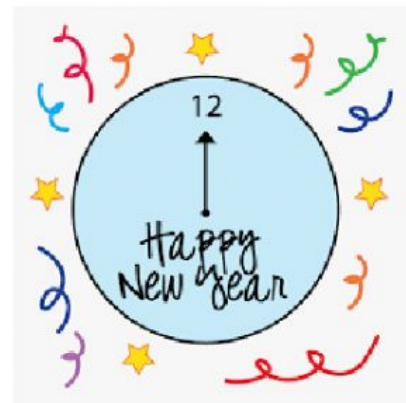
The Gregorian calendar (used by most Western countries) has twelve months and three hundred sixty five days. A year is the time it takes the earth to go around the sun. On a Gregorian calendar the New Year begins on January, 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Islamic calendar also has twelve months, but it doesn't use the sun. It uses the moon. The New Year in an Islamic calendar begins on the month of Muharram – usually between November and February on a Gregorian calendar.

The Indian calendar has also twelve months. It uses the sun and the moon. But in the Indian calendar, the New Year doesn't begin in January. It begins in the holiday of Diwali. This is a very important festival in South Asia. Diwali is usually in October or November on a Gregorian calendar.



Although some cultures use different calendars, there are always traditional celebrations when a new year begins. Generally, whenever they take place, New Year traditions are designed to bring luck and good fortune in the year ahead.



Let's take a look at how people are celebrating the start of the new year around the world.

**Big fireworks displays:** One of the most popular ways to celebrate seeing in the New Year is with big fireworks displays. These take place all over the world, as different countries hit midnight. New York is very popular for its firework displays on that day...

**Smashing plates:** If you walked out of your front door to find a load of smashed plates, you might be a bit confused. But that's exactly what people in Denmark hope to find after midnight, as it means good luck.

**Ring bells:** Some countries, like Japan and South Korea, ring bells to start the New Year... Families usually have a special bell at home on that day to ring it together with their families, especially children.

1. Answer about the article:



a. What do all the calendars have in common? They have...

- The same number of days
  - The same number of months
  - They use the sun and the moon
- b. What do the Islamic and the Indian calendar have in common? They don't...
- have twelve months
  - start in January, 1<sup>st</sup> every year
  - use the sun every year
- c. What is the purpose of most New Year's traditional activities? To...
- bring good health
  - bring good fortune
  - create new traditions
- d. What calendar do people use in countries from the West? They use the \_\_\_\_\_ calendar
- Gregorian
  - Indian
  - Islamic
- e. People from \_\_\_\_\_ break glass objects in New Year's day.
- Denmark
  - Japan
  - New York
- f. How do people celebrate the beginning of a new year in your country?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. LANGUAGE IN USE

**A. Andrea and Lily** are best friends.

They work together in a hospital. Look at their pictures and complete with the words given:

 <p><b>ANDREA</b></p>	<p>Andrea is a _____ girl. She has _____, dark hair and small _____.</p> <p>She usually wears _____ clothes, such as shirts and suits.</p> <p>She is interested in _____ and similar activities. She is a very _____ and active person. She doesn't like _____. She hates spending time in the kitchen.</p>
 <p><b>LILY</b></p>	<p>Lily and Andrea have a lot of _____ in common. They enjoy _____ to the park or taking classes in a gym. She never _____.</p> <p>She doesn't like social media. Lily has _____ eyes and a beautiful _____. She is of _____ and she always wears _____ outfits, like t-shirts and sneakers.</p>

BIG  
STRAIGHT  
MEDIUM HEIGHT  
INTERESTS  
TALL  
EYES  
CASUAL  
ELEGANT  
COOKING  
DOING YOGA  
GOING FOR A WALK  
GOES ONLINE  
SMILE  
OUTGOING



**B. Lily's daily activities. Read about Lily and choose the correct option.** (Simple Present or Present Progressive)







- ✓ Lily (1) \_\_\_\_\_ very early every morning. She (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from Monday to Saturday.
- ✓ She (3) \_\_\_\_\_ work on Sundays; so, on those days she usually (4) \_\_\_\_\_ her mom and grandparents.
- ✓ Lily never (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the museums or art galleries but today (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the city museum because her sister (7) \_\_\_\_\_ some paintings just for 24 hours.
- ✓ Lily's sister is a great artist. They (8) \_\_\_\_\_ art together.
- ✓ Lily and her sister (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to the museum at the moment. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to music in the car while Lily is driving.

- |     |              |          |               |
|-----|--------------|----------|---------------|
| 1.  | get up       | gets up  | is getting up |
| 2.  | work         | works    | is working    |
| 3.  | don't        | doesn't  | isn't         |
| 4.  | visit        | visits   | is visiting   |
| 5.  | go           | goes     | is going      |
| 6.  | visit        | visits   | is visiting   |
| 7.  | present      | presents | is presenting |
| 8.  | enjoy        | enjoys   | is enjoying   |
| 9.  | drive        | drives   | are driving   |
| 10. | is listening | listen   | are listening |

C. Read Andrea's answers and **make questions** using Simple Present or Present Progressive.



		<p><b><u>No, I don't.</u></b> I really don't like going to the movies...</p>
		<p>I usually go to a bar with my best friend Lily <b><u>in my free time.</u></b></p>

	 I live <u>in New York.</u>
	 I take yoga lessons <u>two or three times a week.</u>
	 <u>Yes, I am.</u> I am listening to my favorite band.

#### 4. Listening

Andrea is going to describe her job. Listen and choose the correct option



- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| • She is a nurse                            | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She never works at night                  | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She works with computers                  | TRUE | FALSE |
| • Andrea starts to work at 10 am            | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She goes home by bus                      | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She thinks her job is boring              | TRUE | FALSE |
| • Andrea and her colleagues go out together | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She doesn't like her office               | TRUE | FALSE |
| • She thinks her job is poorly-paid         | TRUE | FALSE |



**5. Writing.** Vicky wants to know you! Write her an email including the following information: 20 points

- ✚ Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself (**Name – Age – Nationality – Profession – Family – Hobbies - Interests**)
- ✚ Paragraph 2: Describe **your city and the activities** you can do there.
- ✚ Paragraph 3: Choose a **relative or friend** and describe that person (**Include physical appearance and outfits**)

New message

To

Subject

**GREAT JOB  
EVERYBODY!**

