

EXERCISE 1: Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

HOGMANAY



Hogmanay is the Scottish word (1) _____ New Year's Eve. In Scotland, Hogmanay is a bigger holiday (2) _____ Christmas. There (3) _____ big parties in the streets of cities (4) _____ towns. People sing songs (5) _____ 'Auld Lang Syne' and dance (6) _____ traditional music. In some places, people swing balls of fire around (7) _____ heads!

In Edinburgh, (8) _____ is a three-day festival for Hogmanay. The festival starts (9) _____ a torchlight parade through the city centre. (10) _____ New Year's Eve, there is (11) _____ big street party. Around 80,000 (12) _____ go to the party every year. (13) _____ finishes with fireworks (14) _____ midnight on 1st January.

People (15) _____ celebrate Hogmanay in their homes. (16) _____ before midnight, people sometimes open the back door to let (17) _____ the old year. Then, (18) _____ close the door to keep out the new year until it arrives! At the stroke of midnight, people sing 'Auld Lang Syne', (19) _____ is an old Scottish song. It is (20) _____ remembering old friends. (21) _____ that, people often have a drink called whisky or a Scottish beer called ale. They call this 'the water of life'.

Some people believe (22) _____ the first person who comes (23) _____ your house in the new year brings luck. This person (24) _____ called the 'first-footer'. A tall, dark-haired man is (25) _____ best kind of first-footer. He usually carries a piece (26) _____ coal, shortbread and whisky. These things bring good luck. Everyone in the house (27) _____ to eat some of the shortbread and drink (28) _____ of the whisky.

In Stonehaven, a small town (29) _____ north-east Scotland, they have a special tradition for Hogmanay. At midnight, men walk through the streets swinging balls of fire around their heads. This is the Fireball Festival. It is (30) _____ dangerous but very exciting. Thousands of people go to watch the festival every year.

EXERCISE 2: Find words in the text for the following definitions.

1. _____ : to move easily and without interruption backwards and forwards or from one side to the other, especially from a fixed point, or to cause something or someone to do this.
2. _____ : a large number of people walking or in vehicles, all going in the same direction, usually as part of a public celebration of something.
3. _____ : small containers filled with explosive chemicals that make a loud noise when they explode and sometimes produce bright, coloured patterns.
4. _____ : one of the sounds that some clocks make at particular times, especially by ringing a bell once for each number of the hour.
5. _____ : a type of beer, especially one that is darker and more bitter than other beers.
6. _____ : the force that causes things, especially good things, to happen to you by chance and not as a result of your own efforts or abilities.
7. _____ : a hard, black substance that is dug from the earth in pieces, and can be burned to produce heat or power.
8. _____ : a type of sweet biscuit that contains a lot of butter.
9. _____ : a custom or belief that has existed for a long time
10. _____ : causing great enthusiasm.