occasion

1 Verb + occasion

Use the correct form of these verbs:

celebrate *dress* *forget* *use*

1. Remember it's a wedding that you're going to. Make sure you ..... for the occasion. Have you got a dark suit?
2. My husband is fifty next week. We're having a big party to ..... the occasion.
3. The Prime Minister opened a new school in London and he ..... the occasion to announce the government's intention to spend more money on primary schools.
4. They seem a very nice couple, don't they? I'll never ..... the occasion when they screamed and shouted at each other in public.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following:

festive *memorable* *previous*
special *serious* *suitable*

1. As my parents' golden wedding was an extra- ..... occasion, we let off a lot of fireworks.
2. OK! I'll speak to him about his behaviour – but only if a ..... occasion arises.
3. We listened to his speech and tried not to laugh – a funeral is meant to be a solemn and ..... occasion.
4. Yes, I know Hans. We've met on two ..... occasions, once in Hamburg, the other time in London.
5. I'm sure I'm speaking for everyone when I say that this has been both an enjoyable and a truly ..... occasion. It's certainly one that I will never forget.
6. The Millennium was a very ..... occasion. People were singing and dancing in the streets.

3 Common expressions

Complete the sentences below with these adjectives and determiners:

more *number* *odd*
one *particular* *this*

1. You usually beat Dave easily. How did he get the better of you on ..... occasion?
2. My mother is now over 80 and can be very demanding. On ..... occasion, she called me in the middle of the night asking me to come round to her house to make her a cup of tea!
3. Smith has been late now on ..... than one occasion. I think we're going to have to speak to him.
4. Jane and I talk about lots of things, but I just can't remember what we were discussing on that ..... occasion.
5. His work has been unsatisfactory now on a ..... of occasions. If it happens again, we'll have no choice but to dismiss him.
6. I don't really smoke. I just have a cigar on the very ..... occasion.

4 Noun + preposition + occasion

Use these nouns to complete the expressions:

keeping *sense* *sparkle* *spirit*

1. The music, the flowers and the crowds gave the event a real feeling of importance. They gave the wedding a real ..... of occasion.
2. I know she doesn't really like party games, but she decided to join in and she seemed to enjoy herself. She certainly entered into the ..... of the occasion.
3. His behaviour during the awards ceremony was rude and inappropriate. It was definitely not in ..... with the occasion.
4. The room was full of men in grey suits, but the presence of the Prime Minister's wife in a beautiful green silk dress added a much needed ..... to the occasion.

Notes

1. Note these expressions:
   The team must rise to the occasion and win the cup.
   I've suggested that on numerous occasions.
   If the occasion arises, I'll ask for his autograph.
   I went out and bought a new dress just for the occasion.
2. 'On occasion' means not often:
   On occasion I have a cigar after a meal.
3. If something is 'an occasion', it means it is special in some way:
   Everybody was there. It was quite an occasion.

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