Reading

Traditions

- **Read** the article. Which traditions are similar to the ones in your country? Which are different?

Let's celebrate!

Although people around the world celebrate many of the same events, they sometimes celebrate these special days quite differently. We found some interesting – and unique – traditions for celebrating New Year's Eve, birthdays, and weddings.



What is the new year going to bring?

NEW YEAR'S EVE

In Mexico, people celebrate the start of the new year by getting together with friends and family. On New Year's Eve, they have a special dinner. Then, when the clock strikes midnight, everyone starts eating grapes – one for each month of the next year. A sweet grape means the month is going to be a good one. If a grape is sour, then the month is not going to be so good.

BIRTHDAYS

In China, there's an interesting birthday tradition for infants. A baby is one year old on the day he or she is born. One year later, friends and relatives get together for the baby's second birthday. They put several objects in front of the baby, such as some money, a doll, and a book. If the baby picks up the money, it means he or she is going to be wealthy. Reaching for the book means the baby is going to be a teacher, and picking up the doll means the baby is going to have a lot of children one day.



What's this baby's future?



Are these newlyweds going to have good luck?

WEDDINGS

Weddings around the world have different traditions, and Venezuela is no exception. Of course, during a wedding ceremony, couples promise that they will always love and take care of each other. However, in Venezuela, the bride and groom don't always say their promises – sometimes they sing them. Later, during the reception, the bride and groom sneak away. If no one sees them leave, it means they are going to have good luck in their marriage. And that seems to be something that all these traditions have in common – they are all meant to bring good luck.

Reading tip

Look at the photos. They can sometimes help you with the vocabulary in an article.

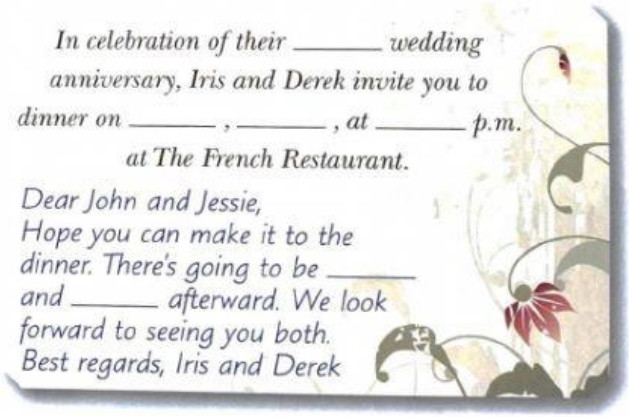
LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Read** the article again. Are these sentences true or false?
    1. In Mexico, people eat grapes at a special dinner.
    2. If you eat a sweet grape on New Year's Eve, it means that the year ahead is going to be good.
    3. In China, the family gets together on the day the baby is born.
    4. If the baby picks up a doll, it means he or she is going to have a lot of brothers and sisters.
    5. In Venezuela, the bride and groom can sing their promises to love each other.
    6. If they don't go to the reception, it means they will have good luck in their marriage.
- What do people in your country do for these events? Name **4 traditions**.

Weddings	**Birthdays**	**New Year's Eve**

- **Listen** to these people talk about their invitations to the events below. Complete the information.





Help note:

Writing personal notes and emails

	Less formal	More formal
Start like this:	***Dear*** (name), ***Hi*** (name),	***Dear*** (name),
End like this:	***Take care,*** ***See you,*** ***Love,***	***Best wishes,*** ***Best regards,*** ***All the best,***

- Invite a friend to a special event. Write an invitation and add a personal note.

LIVEWORKSHEETS