

# Why do we eat cake on our birthdays?

1) Match the phrasal verbs with the images.

To cut up	To cut out	To be cut out for
To cut in	Cut it out!	To cut back



2) Conjugate the verbs to create mixed second/third conditionals.

A) If I (to be) rich, I (to not need) to ask my aunt to bake our wedding cake last year.

B) If Sheila (to be able to sing) like Celine Dion, she (to not become) a baker but instead she (tour) the world with her band.

C) Ronald (to blow out) the candles himself if he (to not suffer from) emphysema.

3) Find three words from the list that do NOT describe the picture below.



- A) Moist
- B) Effervescent
- C) Cylindrical
- D) Decadent
- E) Palatial
- F) Spongy
- G) Creamy
- H) Rich
- I) Indulgent
- J) Elegant
- K) Tough
- L) Posh

4) Watch this video , "The history of birthday cakes", and answer the questions.

- A) Where does the practice of putting candles in cakes originate from?
- B) The ancient Greeks celebrated their birthdays with cakes. True or false?
- C) Why did Germans in the 1400s serve their children cakes with candles in them on their birthdays?



D) How did this German tradition find its way to America?  
E) Explain how the chemist Alfred Bird revolutionised baking in the mid 1800s.  
F) What ingredients would have been used in the mid-1800s to dye the frosting?



G) The phrase “Happy Birthday” was popularised in 1910 by the famous song. What would people have said prior to this date?  
H) Have you ever eaten an ice cream cake before?  
I) What are your favourite types of cake?  
J) Describe the cake you ate on your last birthday.

5) Match the cake-related phrases with their definitions.

1) To go/sell like hot cakes

A) The final touch that makes something as attractive as possible

2) To have one's cake and eat it

B) A task that is easily accomplished

3) The cherry on the cake

C) Crazy or wacky; usually used humorously

4) To be a piece of cake

D) To sell very quickly

5) That takes the cake/biscuit!

E) To be the epitome of something, typically something unpleasant

6) As nutty as a fruitcake

F) To have or do two things that are contradictory

6) Complete the sentences below using the cake-related phrases.

A piece of cake

As nutty as a fruitcake

Have his cake and eat it

Cherry on the cake

Takes the cake

Sells like hot cakes

A) The house Leena bought had a fantastic location, a palatial feel and a beautifully manicured lawn. The.....was the jacuzzi the previous owner had got installed on the balcony.

B) Barely had Malcom begun studying when his friend called to invite him to a party. Malcolm desperately wanted to go, although he also wanted to ace his exam. He knew he'd have to make a choice: he couldn't.....

C) Laura wouldn't have bought alien abduction insurance if she weren't.....

D) "You promised you wouldn't report Uncle Rob to the police", protested Jason, snatching the phone out of his cousin's hand. "But Jason, he has started trying to market his pyramid scheme to old, vulnerable people! That just....."

E) If Anthony were a better salesman, he could have doubled his daily revenue. In the rich neighbourhoods where he was operating, Lamborghini insurance usually.....

F) Margaret was impressed by how quickly her son had picked up the guitar. His fingers danced over the frets effortlessly. He made playing guitar look like.....



7) Tell a story about each of the three images using the cake-related phrases.



8) Read the article “\$75 million cake sets price record”, answer the questions and match the underlined vocabulary with the definitions.

A birthday cake **loaded with** diamonds and hand- **sculpted** fondant just smashed the record for the most expensive dessert ever created.

Price tag: \$75 million.

The decadent cake was created by British designer Debbie Wingham, who rose to fame when she crafted the world's most expensive dress for \$17.7 million. The extravagant dessert was purchased by an unnamed buyer in the United Arab Emirates, who bought it for his daughter's joint birthday and engagement party.

The cake's price tag easily tops the previous record of \$50 million.

Wingham said the cake—a six-foot long depiction of a runway fashion show—weighs nearly 1,000 pounds, with more than 250 pounds of fondant and confectioneries.

- A) To decorate or personalise (clothing or accessories) using sequins, beads, glitter
- B) Expensive, ostentatious clothing and jewellery
- C) To fill or cover with a large amount of something
- D) To create or represent (something) by carving or other shaping techniques



It took more than 1,100 hours to make, since all of the tiny edible figurines were hand-sculpted with Wingham's couture clothing and accessories, including sunglasses and handbags.

But much of the value comes from the **bling**. The cake has

4,000 diamonds, including a 5.2-carat pink diamond, a 6.4-carat yellow diamond



and 15 five-carat white diamonds. Those 17 stones alone are worth more than \$45 million.

The runway is also **bedazzled with** 400 one-carat and 73 three-carat white diamonds, along with 75 three-carat black diamonds.

And yes, it's also tasty. Wingham told CNBC that the front-row seating of

the cake was done in "Madagascan vanilla bean with mascarpone cream and strawberry conserve," while the runway was done in "triple Belgium chocolate with chocolate ganache and chocolate truffle cream."

Now that's rich.

#### Comprehension/discussion questions

- A) The cake's designer was totally unknown prior to her work on the extravagant confectionery. True or false?
- B) Why did the cake take more than 1,100 hours to make?
- C) Using vocabulary from the article, describe the cake while paying special attention to the ordering of the adjectives. Only fill the boxes that apply.

Quantity/ Number	Quality/ Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Proper adjective	Purpose	Noun
								Cake

- D) "It is grotesque that some people in the world have \$75 million to spend on a cake, while others can't afford basic food and shelter. No one should be allowed to get that rich." Do you agree? Justify your answer.