Unusual British Festivals

Listening Comprehension



Listen to the presentation about unusual British festivals and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

I. Preparation: matching

1. .....follow	a. A firework display
2. .....Cook and eat	b. As a special character
3. .....watch	c. Your house or street
4. .....Take part in a	d. Ancient traditions
5. .....Decorate	e. Competition
6. .....Dress up	f. Special food

II. Check your understanding: true or false

1. Many of these festivals are races or competitions. True False
2. The Burning of the Clavie brings good luck for the new year. True False
3. On Shrove Tuesday in Scarborough people dance with ropes. True False
4. Cheese rolling involves running away from a big, round cheese. True False
5. Snail racing started in the UK. True False
6. The competition to pull the ugliest face is an old tradition. True False
7. The Burning of the Clocks festival marks the summer solstice. True False
8. The Burning of the Clocks festival ends with people throwing water. True False

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III. Check your understanding: multiple choice

1. The Clavie is **a whisky container / a wooden cross / a bonfire made of things people don't need.**
2. In the Up Helly Aa festival, they burn **a wooden man / a Viking boat / a line in the grass.**
3. During a pancake race, you have to **eat as many pancakes as possible / run as fast as possible while tossing a pancake in a pan / run and jump over the ropes without dropping the pancake.**
4. Nowadays, the people who win the cheese rolling competition are usually **top athletes / people from the village / visitors from all over the world.**
5. The fastest snail in the Snail Racing is **cooked with garlic and butter / rescued from the barbecue / given a prize of extra lettuce.**
6. Black pudding throwing is similar to **pancake tossing / Olympic sports like javelin and shotput / bowling**
7. To win the best gurner competition, one man **had all his teeth removed / grew a really long beard/ had a lot of facial piercings.**
8. The Burning of the Clocks festival is **2 years old / 20 years old / 200 years old.**

IV. Discussion

Which of these traditions would you like to take part in?

Do they remind you of any other festivals that you know about?

I'd like to ... because ...

There's a festival in ..., where they ...)

I enjoy ... (-ing)



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