

National Holidays in Ukraine

1. Match the pairs

1.	January, 1	a)	The day of Constitution
2.	January, 7	b)	Easter
3.	March, 8	c)	Victory Day
4.	between April, 4 and May, 8	d)	The Independence Day
5.	May, 9	e)	Christmas Day
6.	June, 28	f)	Women's Day
7.	August, 24	g)	New Year's Day

2. Read and translate the text

"National Holidays in Ukraine".

Holidays are very pleasant days, because people don't have to work and they have opportunity to relax, meet friends, give presents to one another, and everybody is in cheerful mood. The major holidays of Ukraine are: New Year's Day, Christmas Day on the 7th of January, Women's Day, Easter, Victory day, the Day of Independence and the Day of Knowledge.

We begin celebrate New Year's Day on the 31st of December. People decorate their fir-trees, lay festive tables and at 12 o'clock everybody raises a glass of champagne to see the New Year in.

On the 7th of January it is Christmas Day. It is a religious holiday. The "holy supper" on Christmas Eve is a meal of 12 meatless dishes on the festive table.

March 8 is Women's Day. It is a nice spring holiday when men give presents and flowers to their wives, sisters, mothers and girl friends.

Another great national and religious holiday is Easter. It is on Sunday between April 4 and May 8. It is the feast of Christ's resurrection. The symbols of Easter are pasky (traditional Easter bread) and pysanky (decorated or coloured Easter eggs). They are blessed in churches.

Every year on May 9th the Ukrainian people celebrate Victory Day, the holiday of victory over fascist invaders in Great Patriotic war. People lay flowers to the tombs of the people who died in the war. War veterans are greeted and there is a salute and fireworks in the evening in main city squares and parks.

The Day of Independence is celebrated on the 24th of August. On that day our country was declared independent.

On June, 28 we celebrate the Constitution Day. On that day in 1996 Verhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Constitution - the Fundamental Law of the country.

3. Give answers to the questions

Is New Year's Day a Family Day?

When do the Ukrainian people celebrate Christmas?

How many meals does the traditional "holy supper" consist of?

When do we celebrate Women's Day?

On what holiday pasky and pysanky are blessed in churches?

When are war veterans greeted?

What nation-wide holiday is the most important?

GRAMMAR

FOR, DURING and WHILE used in time expressions

FOR

- answers the question **How long?**
- followed by **a length of time**
- explains how long something or someone is doing something, or something goes on

*E.g.: Henry lived in France for all his life.
Mark has been writing his final test for two hours.
Sarah is going to Spain for Christmas holidays.*

DURING

- answers the question **When?**
- followed by **a noun**
- explains what happened throughout the period or in the course of an action or event

*E.g.: I will be really busy during the week.
The results of the test were given to us during the lesson.
We always like to travel during the summer.*

WHILE

- answers the question **When?**
- followed by **a subject and a verb**
- explains an action that occurs during the time another action is taking place

*E.g.: I will work while studying at UNI.
You shouldn't make noise while you are in the library.
We were taking notes while the professor was giving the lecture.*

NOTE! To talk about future activities, be sure to use the present after WHILE, not future.

E.g.: I hope to practice my German while I am in Berlin, NOT while I will be.

4. Fill in for, during or while to complete the following sentences.

- 1) As she had studied English _____ childhood, she could speak well when she arrived in Canada.
- 2) We were holding hands _____ we were watching the performance.
- 3) They moved to Ottawa, so I haven't seen them _____ ages.
- 4) Tim scored a goal _____ the volleyball game.
- 5) Girls were gardening _____ her husband was painting the chairs.
- 6) He planned to stay here _____ two weeks but they need him back at work immediately.
- 7) Veronika visited the Eiffel Tower _____ her stay in Paris.
- 8) Don't speak _____ I am doing this exercise!
- 9) In Europe, when you are at a cafe you can stay at the table _____ as long as you like.
- 10) We should travel _____ we are still young.