45 Special events

A A fireworks display

The Sydney **fireworks**[1] **display**[2] is **held**[3] every year, and more than one million people **gather**[4] at Sydney **harbour**[5] on New Year's Eve to **celebrate**[6] the new year. All age groups are **involved**[7] in the event. At 9 pm there is 'Family fireworks' for families with younger children. After that a large number of boats **parade**[8] around the harbour. Finally, at midnight, there is a **spectacular**[9] fireworks display for almost fifteen minutes in which more than 4,000 kilograms of fireworks light up the night sky.

[1] (see picture)
[2] a show for people to watch
[3] organised
[4] come together
[5] area of water where ships are kept and are safe from the sea
[6] do something enjoyable on a special day
[7] included (in an event or activity)
[8] move around as part of a group, often to celebrate something (*parade* is also a noun)
[9] looking extremely good or exciting

B An arts festival

The Edinburgh **Festival**[1] is an **annual**[2] event, and is the largest arts festival in the world. It **consists of**[3] at least six different festivals which **take place**[4] in the city and **last**[5] for almost six weeks during August and early September. The most **popular**[6] festival is The Fringe, which has **up to**[7] 500 daily performances in dance, music, drama and comedy in 180 places across the city.

[1] a number of special events often continuing for several days
[2] happening once a year
[3] is made of
[4] happen
[5] continue
[6] liked by many people
[7] the maximum (is 500)

C The Chinese Spring Festival

The Spring Festival (or Chinese New Year) is the biggest **traditional** festival in China. It has been celebrated for about 4,000 years, and takes place every year at some point between 21 January and 20 February. On the day before the festival starts, people from **all over**[1] China return to their family homes and gather for a big meal. The next day, many people **dress up**[2], and children receive money from their parents in red envelopes to **bring them luck**. Another popular **custom** is to put two-line poems on the gates outside each home.

[1] everywhere (in China)
[2] wear special clothes

Language help

A **custom** is something that people usually do. A **tradition** is a very old custom that has continued for a long time. The adjectives are **traditional** and **customary**.
*It is **traditional** to give each other presents.*
*It is **customary** to take your shoes off before you enter a mosque.*
*We went to a **traditional** Greek wedding* (NOT a ~~Greek traditional~~ wedding).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

45.1 **Complete the definitions.**

1 A display is a show for people to *watch* .
2 If you are involved in an activity, you are ..... in it.
3 If you can have up to 25 people, 25 people is the ..... .
4 If an event is spectacular, it looks very good or ..... .
5 A harbour is a place where ..... are kept.
6 If people parade round the streets, they ..... round the streets in a group.

45.2 **Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals. Keep a similar meaning.**

1 The festival happens in the summer. TAKE — *The festival takes place in the summer.*
2 The children wear special clothes. DRESS — .....
3 People come from everywhere in Japan. ALL — .....
4 They hold the event every year. HELD — .....
5 Do you do anything special for your birthday? CELEBRATE — .....
6 The festival happens every year. ANNUAL — .....

45.3 **Complete the text.**

45.4 Over to you

Think about a festival you know and answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else.

1 What kind of festival is it? Is it an arts festival or a traditional festival?
2 How often is it held?
3 When and where does it take place?
4 How long does it last?
5 What does it consist of?
6 Are there any special traditions or customs as part of the festival?

LIVEWORKSHEETS