

**EXERCISE 1: Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.**

# HOGMANAY



Hogmanay is the Scottish word (1) \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve. In Scotland, Hogmanay is a bigger holiday (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas. There (3) \_\_\_\_\_ big parties in the streets of cities (4) \_\_\_\_\_ towns. People sing songs (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 'Auld Lang Syne' and dance (6) \_\_\_\_\_ traditional music. In some places, people swing balls of fire around (7) \_\_\_\_\_ heads!

In Edinburgh, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ is a three-day festival for Hogmanay. The festival starts (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a torchlight parade through the city centre. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve, there is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ big street party. Around 80,000 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ go to the party every year. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ finishes with fireworks (14) \_\_\_\_\_ midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

People (15) \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate Hogmanay in their homes. (16) \_\_\_\_\_ before midnight, people sometimes open the back door to let (17) \_\_\_\_\_ the old year. Then, (18) \_\_\_\_\_ close the door to keep out the new year until it arrives! At the stroke of midnight, people sing 'Auld Lang Syne', (19) \_\_\_\_\_ is an old Scottish song. It is (20) \_\_\_\_\_ remembering old friends. (21) \_\_\_\_\_ that, people often have a drink called whisky or a Scottish beer called ale. They call this 'the water of life'.

Some people believe (22) \_\_\_\_\_ the first person who comes (23) \_\_\_\_\_ your house in the new year brings luck. This person (24) \_\_\_\_\_ called the 'first-footer'. A tall, dark-haired man is (25) \_\_\_\_\_ best kind of first-footer. He usually carries a piece (26) \_\_\_\_\_ coal, shortbread and whisky. These things bring good luck. Everyone in the house (27) \_\_\_\_\_ to eat some of the shortbread and drink (28) \_\_\_\_\_ of the whisky.

In Stonehaven, a small town (29) \_\_\_\_\_ north-east Scotland, they have a special tradition for Hogmanay. At midnight, men walk through the streets swinging balls of fire around their heads. This is the Fireball Festival. It is (30) \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous but very exciting. Thousands of people go to watch the festival every year.

**EXERCISE 2: Find words in the text for the following definitions.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : to move easily and without interruption backwards and forwards or from one side to the other, especially from a fixed point, or to cause something or someone to do this.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ : a large number of people walking or in vehicles, all going in the same direction, usually as part of a public celebration of something.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ : small containers filled with explosive chemicals that make a loud noise when they explode and sometimes produce bright, coloured patterns.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : one of the sounds that some clocks make at particular times, especially by ringing a bell once for each number of the hour.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : a type of beer, especially one that is darker and more bitter than other beers.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ : the force that causes things, especially good things, to happen to you by chance and not as a result of your own efforts or abilities.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ : a hard, black substance that is dug from the earth in pieces, and can be burned to produce heat or power.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ : a type of sweet biscuit that contains a lot of butter.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ : a custom or belief that has existed for a long time
10. \_\_\_\_\_ : causing great enthusiasm.