# Nowruz email

Reading practice

Level 3

What do you know about Nowruz? Practise your reading in English with this email.

## Preparation

Match the words with the definitions.

| | |
|---|---|
| Persia | to make a loud noise by hitting something |
| to celebrate | round containers used for cooking |
| a bonfire | an old name for the country of Iran |
| to bang | the official language of Iran |
| pots and pans | the opposite of illness |
| to decorate | a big fire, often in a festival |
| Farsi | to do something to show that it's a special day |
| health | to make something nice to look at |



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## Reading text

Read the email.

**From:** Baba borzog [Grandpa]

**Subject:** Happy Nowruz!

Hi Leila,

How are you? What's the weather like in the UK? Here in Iran it's quite warm and sunny, as it's nearly spring.

As you know, it's the Persian New Year celebration, Nowruz, very soon. We're busy getting everything ready. What about you? Are you and the family over there in the UK preparing for Nowruz too? The celebrations last for 13 days in Iran!

Your grandmother and I have cleaned our house from top to bottom and decorated it with lots of flowers. It was hard work but it's important to start the new year fresh and clean.

Yesterday we went shopping for new clothes. I bought some new trousers and a shirt. New clothes mean a fresh start for next year! What new clothes are you going to wear for Nowruz?

Tomorrow's the last Wednesday before Nowruz. It's a special day here when people light bonfires in the street and jump over them! It's noisy too, as the children bang on pots and pans. They knock on doors and ask for sweets.

Are you learning all about Nowruz and the *haftseen* table at Persian school? I'm sure you know that we put seven special objects on the *haftseen*, all beginning with the sound 's' in the Farsi language. The objects have special meanings and they represent what we hope for in the new year. Apples (*seeb*) are for health and beauty. What are you going to put on your *haftseen* table? Do you know the words in Farsi?

All of your cousins, aunts and uncles are going to come to celebrate with us. The new year starts at the exact moment when winter changes to spring. That's when we give each other presents.

We all wish you could be here to celebrate Nowruz with us. Maybe next year!

Happy Nowruz!

Love from your grandfather, Baba borzog

P.S. This is our *haftseen* table, do you like it?

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## 1. Choose the answer!

Read the sentence. Circle the correct answer.

a. Nowruz is a celebration at the beginning of _____. **spring / summer / winter**

b. In Iran Nowruz lasts for _____ days. **7 / 13 / 30**

c. It's important to clean your _____ before Nowruz. **teeth / car / house**

d. People wear _____ clothes to celebrate Nowruz. **new / bright / old**

e. The _____ before Nowruz, people jump over bonfires. **Monday / Wednesday / Friday**

f. Children knock on doors and ask for _____. **goldfish / eggs / sweets**

g. The 'haftseen' is a special _____. **cupboard / table / picture**

h. The _____ means health and beauty. **banana / pear / apple**

## 2. What's the order?

Put the words in the correct order.

a. ~~New~~ ~~Year~~ ~~is the~~ ~~Persian~~ ~~Nowruz~~ ~~celebration.~~

Nowruz is the Persian New Year celebration.

b. clean. to start year fresh and It's important the new

c. for next mean year! clothes a fresh start New

d. light bonfires them. and jump People over

e. pans. on pots and Children bang

f. 'haftseen' table. seven We put objects on the special

g. Farsi the sound in the language. They 's' begin with

h. give We other each presents.



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## Write and draw!

When's the new year where you live? How do people celebrate? Draw a picture and write about it!



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