

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

customary prosper milestone go easy faux pas prank auspicious

3. Cinnamon Challenge Tradition. Denmark



In Denmark, if you turn 25 and are still unmarried, it's 1) _____ for your friends and family to cover you in cinnamon. They don't 2) _____ on you, either, splashing you with water from head to toe so the cinnamon sticks better. If you cross 30 and are still single, the level of torture increases. The cinnamon is replaced by eggs and pepper. Contrary to what the actions suggest, nobody is being judged for still being single at 25. The average age of men getting married in Denmark is 34 and a half, and for women it's 32. Rather than a punishment, the tradition is just an excuse to play a 3) _____ and be silly with your friends when they reach 4) _____ ages. You might be wondering when it all began. According to Danes, the tradition dates hundreds of years back to when salesmen selling spices would travel around but in the process would be left single. They would hardly be in one place long enough to find a good partner for themselves. These male salesmen were called *pepper dudes* and their female counterparts were called *pepper maidens*.

4. Don't Give Gifts in Sets of Four. China



In some cases, choosing the right quantity is almost as important as choosing the right gift itself. Because the words for "four" (sì) and "death" (sì) sound similar in Mandarin, it's a serious 5) _____ to give gifts in fours. On the other hand, gifts given in pairs or eights are thought to be luckier. Two is generally thought to be a good number, and there is a saying that "good things come in pairs". Eight is considered an especially 6) _____ number, both because its Mandarin and Cantonese pronunciations bā/baat sound similar to fā/faat, to 7) _____, and because the number 88 resembles the character 喜, meaning double happiness.