

8

Time to celebrate!

1 Complete this paragraph with the words in the box.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ get together | ☐ music | ☐ fireworks | ☐ decorations |
| ☒ holidays | ☐ customs | ☐ picnic | ☐ celebrate |

One of the most important national holidays in the United States is Independence Day. This is the day when Americans _____ winning their independence from Britain almost 250 years ago. There are many _____ for Independence Day. Most towns, big and small, mark this holiday with parades and _____. They put up a lot of _____, usually in red, white, and blue, the colors of the U.S. flag. Bands play patriotic _____. It's also a day when many Americans _____ with family and friends to celebrate with a barbecue or a _____.



2 Complete the sentences with the clauses in the box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ when I feel sad and depressed | ☐ when people have to pay their taxes |
| ☐ when school starts | ☐ when summer vacation begins |

- I hate April 15! In the United States, it's the day _____.
I always owe the government money.
- June is my favorite month. It's the month _____.
I always go straight to the beach.
- September is my least favorite month. It's the month _____.
Good-bye, summer!
- I've never liked winter. It's a season _____. The cold weather always affects my mood negatively.



3 Special days

A Use words from the box to complete the sentences.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ☐ February | ☐ tricks |
| ☒ June | ☐ wedding |
| ☐ anniversary | ☐ presents |
| ☐ party | ☐ fireworks |

1. June is the time of year when there are a lot of weddings in the U.S.
2. We always have a _____ at our house on New Year's Eve.
3. Janice and Nick are getting married soon. They plan to have a small _____ with just a few family members.
4. Valentine's Day is on _____ 14th every year.
5. My friends and family gave me some very nice _____ on my birthday.
6. People like to play _____ on each other on April Fools' Day.
7. On the Fourth of July, many people shoot _____ into the sky at night.
8. Tomorrow is my parents' 25th wedding _____.



B Use the cues in parentheses to create sentences with relative clauses of time.

1. (Thanksgiving / a day / people spend time with their families)
Thanksgiving is a day when people spend time with their families.
2. (Spring / the season / flowers start to bloom)

3. (New Year's Eve / a night / people celebrate new beginnings)

4. (The weekend / a time / people relax)

5. (Father's Day / a day / children spend time with their fathers)

6. (Winter / the season / we go skiing)

4 A lot to celebrate!

A Read about these special days in the United States. Do you celebrate any of them in your country?

EVENT	U.S. Holiday	Date	in Ecuador?	If Yes, When?	How People Celebrate it
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	3rd Monday in January			People honor the life and work of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
	Valentine's Day	February 14th			People give chocolates, flowers, and gifts to loved ones.
	April Fools' Day	April 1st			People play tricks on friends; websites post funny stories or fake products.
	Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May			People honor their mothers with cards, gifts, and family gatherings.
	Father's Day	2nd Sunday in June			People honor fathers with cards, gifts, and family gatherings.
	Independence Day	July 4th			Celebrated with parades and fireworks to mark U.S. independence from Britain.
	Labor Day	1st Monday in September			Honors workers; people often have barbecues with friends and family.
	Thanksgiving	4th Thursday in November			People eat a big dinner (often turkey) with family and friends to celebrate the fall season.

B Complete the chart. Check (✓) the correct answers.

	Americans give gifts on:	Americans don't give gifts on:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	☐	☐
Valentine's Day	☐	☐
April Fools' Day	☐	☐
Mother's Day	☐	☐
Father's Day	☐	☐
Independence Day	☐	☐
Labor Day	☐	☐
Thanksgiving	☐	☐

5

What happens at these times in your country? Complete the sentences.

Drag and drop.

1. Before a man and woman get married, they
usually date each other.

2. When someone has a birthday, _____

3. After a couple moves into a new home, _____

4. After a student graduates, _____

5. When a woman gets engaged, _____

6. When a couple has their first child, _____



family and friends visit to meet the baby and bring gifts for the newborn.

they often organize a housewarming party with close friends and relatives.

she usually shows her engagement ring and celebrates with her loved ones.

the family celebrates with a special meal, gifts, and sometimes a trip.

friends and family throw a party, sing "Feliz Cumpleaños," and share a cake.

6

Complete the paragraph with the information in the box.

Add a comma where necessary.

Grammar note: Adverbial clauses of time

The adverbial clause can come before or after the main clause.

If it comes before the main clause, add a comma.

When a couple gets married, they often receive gifts.

Do not add a comma after the main clause.

A couple often receives gifts when they get married.

- ☐ before the wedding reception ends
- ☐ many newlyweds have to live with relatives
- ☐ most couples like to be alone
- ☐ when they have enough money to pay for it

Newly married couples often leave on their honeymoon _____.

When they go on their honeymoon _____ . After they come back from their honeymoon _____. They can only live in their own place _____.

7 Correct the errors in the three paragraphs about marriage customs in your country.

In Ecuador, before the wedding, the couple often have a “pedida de mano,” where the groom ask the bride’s family for her hand. Families then celebrate the engagement together. The couple also prepare for the ceremony by planning the event and attend church counseling.

The wedding be usually held in a Catholic church with a religious mass. The bride wear a white dress, and the groom wears a suit. They exchange rings, receives blessings, and may include the tradition of giving thirteen coins, call “arras,” as a symbol of commitment.

After the ceremony, there was a big party with food, music, and dancing. The couple cuts the cake, throw the bouquet, and enjoys time with family and friends. Later, they often goes on a honeymoon and visit relatives to thanks them for their support.



Japan



Morocco



Scotland



India

8 Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. Wedding _____ (celebrations / flowers / birthdays) are often held in a restaurant or hotel.
2. Children’s Day is a day when people in many countries _____ (meet / honor / find) their children.
3. Fall is the _____ (custom / tradition / season) when people in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving.
4. In Indonesia, on Nyepi Day, Balinese people _____ (last / stop / observe) a day of silence to begin the new year.

9

Rewrite these sentences. Find another way to say each sentence using the words given.

1. Everyone in the family comes to my parents' home on Thanksgiving. (get together)

Everyone in the family gets together at my parents' home on Thanksgiving.

2. Many people have parties on New Year's Eve. (New Year's Eve / when)

3. At the end of the year, Japanese people give and receive oseibo presents to show their appreciation for the people in their lives. (exchange)

4. June is the month when many Brazilians celebrate the Festa Junina. (in June)

5. In Sweden, people observe Midsummer's Day around June 21. (occur)

10

Unscramble the words.


☐ clothes

☐ midnight

☐ sing and dance

☐ fireworks

☒ present

☐ special food

1. Should I bring a New Year's present?

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

2. midnight / going / is / to / at / happen / What / ?

3. Will / there / be / fireworks / ?

4. people / to / sing / Are / dance / going / and / ?

5. should / What / of / kind / I / wear / clothes / ?

6. Are / special / going / food / make / you / to / ?