

Read the text and guess the meaning of words **in bold** and choose the right title for each paragraph.

Easter



Easter is a spring festival of new life. As a **pagan tradition**, it is the beginning of growth and new life after the cold, winter months. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring – Eostre. For Christians, Easter celebrates the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ and practicing Christians attend special church services at Easter time. Easter celebrates life and rebirth, which is why we see lots of symbols of new life and fertility at Easter, like eggs, chicks and rabbits.

Easter isn't on the same date each year. It takes place on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. Schoolchildren and students in the UK have about a two-week holiday at Easter time, which is almost as long as the Christmas holiday. It's also the first public holiday after Christmas and everyone looks forward to their Easter break as a moment to relax, have a short holiday or visit family and friends.

For most British children, Easter means chocolate Easter eggs. The shops are full of bright Easter displays decorated with chicks, rabbits and flowers, all with the objective of selling chocolate eggs in huge numbers. And it works! 90 million chocolate eggs are sold in the UK each year.



However, the eggs are sold in cardboard boxes and sometimes there's more packaging than chocolate! Also, some people believe that too much chocolate is eaten and most doctors and dentists would advise people to eat Easter eggs in **moderation**.



In the UK, chocolate is definitely the most popular way to enjoy eggs at Easter. But there are some less sugary traditions too. Chickens' eggs are painted and decorated to give as presents and eggs are also hidden for children to find as part of an 'egg hunt'. Some places even hold competitions to see who can roll and eggs down a hill without it breaking!

There are other special foods too. Hot cross buns are typical cakes that are made at Easter time. They are spiced bread rolls with **raisins** and they always have a cross shape on top. They are delicious toasted with butter.

pagan tradition	A dried black grape.
resurrection	A religion that worships many gods.
moderation	The quality of doing something within reasonable limits.
raisins	The act of bringing that had disappeared or ended back into use or existence.

Are these sentences true or false?

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Easter is a summer festival. | True / False |
| 2. The exact date of Easter is different every year. | True / False |
| 3. The Easter holiday is two weeks long for everyone in the UK. | True / False |
| 4. Chocolate eggs are extremely popular. | True / False |
| 5. Doctors and dentists say that people should not eat any Easter eggs. | True / False |
| 6. In an egg hunt, children hide eggs for adults to find. | True / False |

Choose the best option to complete the sentence.

1. Easter _____ life and rebirth.
2. The name Easter _____ from Eostre, the goddess of the dawn and spring.
3. Christians _____ special church services at Easter time.
4. The eggs _____ in cardboard boxes.
5. Some people believe that too much chocolate _____ at Easter.
6. Chickens' eggs _____ to give as presents.
7. Eggs _____ for children to find.
8. Hot cross buns are typical cakes that _____ at Easter time.

Fill the gaps with the correct word from the box.



1. Easter is a spring festival _____ new life.
2. Christians attend special church services _____ Easter.
3. Easter isn't _____ the same date each year.
4. Everyone looks forward _____ Easter break.
5. The shops are full _____ bright Easter displays.

6. The aim of most shops is to sell chocolate eggs _____ huge numbers.
7. Doctors and dentists would advise people to eat Easter eggs _____ moderation.
8. Eggs are painted and decorated to give _____ presents.

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