

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 celebrate winning their independence from Britain almost 250 years ago. There are many decorations for Independence Day. Most towns, big and small, mark this holiday with parades and fireworks. They put up a lot of decorations, usually in red, white, and blue, the colors of the U.S. flag. Bands play patriotic music. It's also a day when many Americans get together with family and friends to celebrate with a barbecue or a picnic.



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 when people have to pay their taxes.
I always owe the government money.
- June is my favorite month. It's the month when summer vacation begins.
I always go straight to the beach.
- September is my least favorite month. It's the month when school starts.
Good-bye, summer!
- I've never liked winter. It's a season when I feel sad and depressed. 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	DAY	HOW PEOPLE CELEBRATE IT
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	3rd Monday in January	People honor the life and work of the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
 Valentine's Day	February 14th	People give chocolates, flowers, and gifts to the ones they love.
 April Fools' Day	April 1st	This is a day when people play tricks on friends. Websites sometimes post funny stories or advertise fake products.
 Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May	People honor their mothers by giving cards and gifts. They may also have a family gathering.
 Father's Day	2nd Sunday in June	People honor their fathers by giving them cards and presents. They may also have a family gathering.
 Independence Day	July 4th	Americans celebrate their country's independence from Britain. There are parades and fireworks.
 Labor Day	1st Monday in September	People honor workers and celebrate the end of summer. Many people have barbecues with friends and family.
 Thanksgiving	4th Thursday in November	People celebrate the fall season by eating a big dinner, often with turkey, with family members and friends.

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	☐	☐

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