

Unit 8: CELEBRATIONS- PART I

LAN: You lived in Japan for more than two years, could you tell me something about Japanese New year, Mai? When is the New Year observed?

MAI: It's on 1st January, and it lasts three days through (1) _____.

LAN: Do people do the same things as we do in Vietnam?

MAI: Well, there are some (2) _____ and also some differences.

LAN: Please, tell me about them.

MAI: The preparations begin a few days before the New Year when (3) _____ start cooking special food for New Year's Day.

LAN: Do they clean and decorate their houses?

MAI: Sure, they do. On the New Year's Eve every household do a big (4) _____. The idea is to get rid of the dirt of the past year and welcome the new one.

LAN: Yes, they usually decorate their houses with some small pine trees on both sides of the door, which represent (5) _____ and constancy. People also exchange cards and gifts.

MAI: I see. And what do they usually do on the New Year's Eve?

LAN: Family members sit around and start (6) _____ the national singing contest on television. But the last notes must be sung before midnight. Then television and radio will broadcast (7) _____ bells. As soon as the 108th bell is rung, people all say "Happy New Year".

MAI: What do they usually do next?

LAN: Some families put on special kimonos or dress to go to visit their (8) _____.

Then they come home and eat their special New Year Day's food and drink a lot of rice wine. New Year's Day is mostly celebrated among family only.