

## 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.