Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

HOGMANAY

The New Year **(1)** _____ celebrated around the world and, in Scotland, **(2)** _____ is a long and rich heritage associated **(3)** _____ New Year: Hogmanay.

Traditionally, Hogmanay in Scotland **(4)** _____ a much bigger celebration **(5)** _____ Christmas. It may surprise many people to note that Christmas was not celebrated **(6)** _____ a festival and virtually prohibited in Scotland **(7)** _____ around 400 years. From the end of the 17th century and right until the 1960s, Christmas day was a normal working day **(8)** _____ Scotland. With Scots working over Christmas, **(9)** _____ Solstice holiday was transferred **(10)** _____ New Year.

It is unknown **(11)** _____ the word Hogmanay originally comes **(12)** _____, but it is believed that some of the Hogmanay traditions **(13)** _____ brought to Scotland **(14)** _____ Viking invaders who observed the Winter Solstice, **(15)** _____ the shortest day of the year, with drinking, singing and **(16)** _____ celebrations.

There **(17)** _____ several traditions and superstitions that should be **(18)** _____ care of before midnight on 31st December: It **(19)** _____ become tradition to clean your house on 31st December and clear **(20)** _____ your debts before the bells sound midnight. Immediately after midnight **(21)** _____ is traditional to sing poet Robert Burns' 'For Auld Lang Syne' and to welcome strangers to your home, wishing **(22)** _____ a 'Guid New Year'. Usually, this is used to symbolise a complete break with the old year **(23)** _____ begin the New Year on a happy note.

The 'first foot' is the first person to visit your house just **(24)** _____ midnight and the person who brings you good luck for the New Year. The 'first foot' should **(25)** _____ a tall, dark-haired man with a gift **(26)** _____ as coal or black bun. The superstition dates **(27)** _____ to Viking days, **(28)** _____ a blond man arriving **(29)** _____ your door meant trouble. Nowadays people tend to bring **(30)** _____ to eat or drink.

The modern Hogmanay celebrations include all-night street parties in the cities **(31)** _____ Edinburgh and Glasgow, with big crowds, live music, torchlight processions and fireworks. **(32)** _____ traditional fireworks display at Edinburgh castle dates back to the traditional pagan celebrations. Back **(33)** _____, people would dress in the hide of cattle and run **(34)** _____ the town hitting **(35)** _____ other with sticks.

(36) _____ you are planning a trip to Scotland, remember **(37)** _____ 2nd January is **(38)** _____ a national holiday. If you **(39)** _____ get a chance to welcome in the New Year in Scotland, make **(40)** _____ you take it!

Source: http://csda.gencat.cat/

LIVEWORKSHEETS