

NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zytac4cwnek>

Exercise 1

Warm-up discussion – Discuss the following questions.

1. What do you like about the New Year?
2. Is New Year's Eve a fun time for you? Why?
3. Do you do anything special on New Year's day?

Exercise 2

Fill-in-the-blanks – Watch the video and complete the dialogue with the missing words.

Hello again!

Today I will talk about some New Year's traditions around the world.

People around the world _____ this event in various ways. Let's look at how people celebrate the new year in a few different countries.

In America and Canada, people have parties on New Year's Eve, the night of December 31st. They often eat a lot of food, drink alcohol, listen and dance to music.

The party usually lasts until well after _____.

Children and adults alike stay up until _____ to watch the ball drop in Times Square.

Every year, a large shiny ball is slowly lowered as _____ count down to midnight. When the clock strikes 12, everyone shouts "Happy New Year!" People usually kiss and _____ the person next to them, chink their glasses and blow party _____.

While New Year's Eve is celebrated with _____ in North America, New Year's Day is usually a time to relax. A lot of people will _____ late and just stay home all day, watching football games, and eating _____.

The New Year celebration is very _____ in Japan!

Like Christmas in Canada and the US, New Years is a quiet time to spend with close family. There are usually no big _____.

Japanese people eat many special dishes called *osechi ryori* during this holiday. Each dish has a _____ meaning. For example, people eat prawns for a long life and sweetened black beans for health in the new year. There are many other _____ dishes also.

Once the clock strikes midnight on the 31st, the bells at _____ ring 108 times to celebrate the new year.

People usually go to bed early and get up before the first _____ of the new year. It is important for a lot of Japanese people to see the first _____ on New Year's Day.

The New Year holiday is three days long in Japan. From January first to the third. During this time people will eat a lot of _____ foods, visit _____ for good luck, and of course enjoy some New Year's shopping!

Well, I'm sure there are many things that I missed.

What do you do to celebrate and bring in the New Year? What are some _____ that people have in other countries for New Year's?

Exercise 3

Vocabulary – Match the words on the left with the right meaning on the right.

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|----------------|---|
| 1. custom | A. to rest or do some enjoyable activities |
| 2. hug | B. a clear, resonating or vibrating sound |
| 3. relax | C. to not go to bed; to remain awake |
| 4. celebration | D. something that remains after an event or meal |
| 5. ring | E. a way of doing something or behaving that is important to a group of people or country |
| 6. shout | F. a loud call or cry, usually expressing strong emotion |
| 7. stay up | G. enjoyable activities to mark a special event or occasion |
| 8. strike | H. a place regarded as holy, often marked by a building |
| 9. leftover | I. to squeeze someone tightly in one's arms, usually as a way to show affection |
| 10. shrine | J. indicating a time by sounding a chime |

Exercise 4

Words in Context – Use the words from the vocabulary box to complete the following sentences. You may need to modify the tense or word form.

1. There is so much _____ turkey from last night's dinner! We will be eating turkey sandwiches for the next week!
2. It is a _____ in India to put your hands together in front of you and say namaste when meeting someone for the first time.
3. We have to wait until the clock _____ three o'clock exactly before we can leave school.
4. I really don't feel like doing anything today. I think I will just _____ at home and play video games.
5. I'm sorry I'm late. I was sleeping so deeply that I didn't hear my alarm clock _____!
6. The 4th of July is a _____ in America. There are parades, parties, and lots of fun activities!
7. If we are going to finish this work by tomorrow we are going to have to _____ until three or four in the morning!
8. The city of Kyoto in Japan is famous for its many traditional _____ and temples.
9. The party is so noisy! If you want me to hear what you are saying you are going to have to _____!

10. The boy _____ his new puppy to his chest and said "I love you!".

Exercise 5

More discussion – Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you like to stay up late on New Year's Eve?
2. What do people in your family do on New Year's Day?
3. Do you have a holiday on New Year's Day?
4. Do you go anywhere special on New Year's Day?
5. How do you celebrate the new year in your country?
6. Do you like to watch the sunrise on New Year's Day?
7. What are common New Year foods where you live?

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