

## Task 2

- You are going to read an article about an ancient Irish festival called Bealtaine, the Celtic Fire Festival. Some words are missing from the text.
- Your task is to write the missing words on the dotted lines (9-17) after the text.
- Use only one word in each gap.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.



### BEALTAINE

It is believed that (0) \_\_\_\_\_ ancient Irish had four major festivals, as (9) \_\_\_\_\_ as a number of smaller festivals. When Christianity came to Ireland around 1500 years (10) \_\_\_\_\_, the priests and monks Christianised some of the Pagan festivals and because of that, some of the ancient Irish festivals (11) \_\_\_\_\_ still celebrated in Ireland today.

Bealtaine signals the start of summer. Anyone who speaks Irish will (12) \_\_\_\_\_ familiar with this word, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ Bealtaine is also the Irish word for the month of May, along with the festival on the first day of that month. The word *beal* may have meant 'bright light' and the second part means 'fire'. This festival is strongly connected (14) \_\_\_\_\_ fire in Irish tradition. Until a hundred years ago, people in some country areas of Ireland still followed the custom (15) \_\_\_\_\_ building two great fires in a field on this day and driving their cattle between the fires to protect them from disease. According to a text from the 10th century, the Druids used (16) \_\_\_\_\_ do the same during the Pagan era hundreds of years before that. When an Irish speaker is confused or unsure (17) \_\_\_\_\_ to do, they often use the phrase "I am between two Bealtaine fires about it".

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