

# 45 Special events

## A A fireworks display

The Sydney **fireworks<sup>1</sup>** **display<sup>2</sup>** is **held<sup>3</sup>** every year, and more than one million people **gather<sup>4</sup>** at Sydney **harbour<sup>5</sup>** on New Year's Eve to **celebrate<sup>6</sup>** the new year. All age groups are **involved<sup>7</sup>** in the event. At 9 pm there is 'Family fireworks' for families with younger children. After that a large number of boats **parade<sup>8</sup>** around the harbour. Finally, at midnight, there is a **spectacular<sup>9</sup>** fireworks display for almost fifteen minutes in which more than 4,000 kilograms of fireworks light up the night sky.

<sup>1</sup> (see picture)

<sup>2</sup> a show for people to watch

<sup>3</sup> organised

<sup>4</sup> come together

<sup>5</sup> area of water where ships are kept and are safe from the sea

<sup>6</sup> do something enjoyable on a special day

<sup>7</sup> included (in an event or activity)

<sup>8</sup> move around as part of a group, often to celebrate something (*parade* is also a noun)

<sup>9</sup> looking extremely good or exciting



## B An arts festival

The Edinburgh **Festival<sup>1</sup>** is an **annual<sup>2</sup>** event, and is the largest arts festival in the world. It **consists of<sup>3</sup>** at least six different festivals which **take place<sup>4</sup>** in the city and **last<sup>5</sup>** for almost six weeks during August and early September. The most **popular<sup>6</sup>** festival is The Fringe, which has **up to<sup>7</sup>** 500 daily performances in dance, music, drama and comedy in 180 places across the city.

<sup>1</sup> a number of special events often continuing for several days

<sup>5</sup> continue

<sup>2</sup> happening once a year

<sup>6</sup> liked by many people

<sup>3</sup> is made of

<sup>7</sup> the maximum (is 500)

<sup>4</sup> happen

## C The Chinese Spring Festival



The Spring Festival (or Chinese New Year) is the biggest **traditional** festival in China. It has been celebrated for about 4,000 years, and takes place every year at some point between 21 January and 20 February. On the day before the festival starts, people from **all over<sup>1</sup>** China return to their family homes and gather for a big meal. The next day, many people **dress up<sup>2</sup>**, and children receive money from their parents in red envelopes to **bring them luck**. Another popular **custom** is to put two-line poems on the gates outside each home.

<sup>1</sup> everywhere (in China)

<sup>2</sup> wear special clothes

### Language help

A **custom** is something that people usually do. A **tradition** is a very old custom that has continued for a long time. The adjectives are **traditional** and **customary**.

*It is traditional to give each other presents.*

*It is customary to take your shoes off before you enter a mosque.*

*We went to a traditional Greek wedding (NOT a Greek-traditional wedding).*

## Exercises

### 45.1 Complete the definitions.

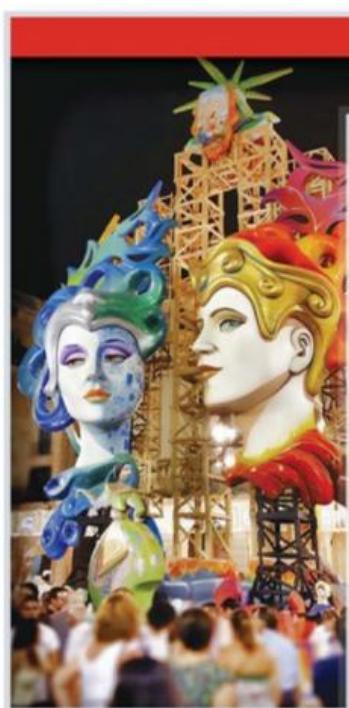
- 1 A display is a show for people to watch.
- 2 If you are involved in an activity, you are ..... in it.
- 3 If you can have up to 25 people, 25 people is the ......
- 4 If an event is spectacular, it looks very good or ......
- 5 A harbour is a place where ..... are kept.
- 6 If people parade round the streets, they ..... round the streets in a group.

### 45.2 Rewrite the sentences using the word in capitals. Keep a similar meaning.

- 1 The festival happens in the summer. **TAKE**
- 2 The children wear special clothes. **DRESS**
- 3 People come from everywhere in Japan. **ALL**
- 4 They hold the event every year. **HELD**
- 5 Do you do anything special for  
your birthday? **CELEBRATE**
- 6 The festival happens every year. **ANNUAL**

*The festival takes place in the summer.*  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### 45.3 Complete the text.



**FESTIVALS** **ATTRACTI0NS** **TRANSPORT**

## THE FALLAS

The Fallas is a <sup>1</sup> *traditional* <sup>2</sup> *.....* in Valencia, Spain, which <sup>3</sup> *.....* for five days and finishes on March 19th. The Fallas <sup>4</sup> *.....* place right across the city, and it <sup>5</sup> *.....* St Joseph, as well as the end of winter and the birth of spring. The festival <sup>6</sup> *.....* of music, dancing, cooking (the famous paella) and parades, and each area in the city produces a falla, which is a figure made of paper, cardboard, wood, etc. that is burnt on the final day. The fallas are very important, and artists spend months making them.

But the festival is also famous for <sup>7</sup> *.....* fireworks displays. Every day crowds <sup>8</sup> *.....* in different parts of the city at 2 pm, when loud firecrackers are set off. <sup>9</sup> *.....* displays continue every night, and on the final night, there is a huge display when all the fallas are burned. This is called the Crema.

### 45.4 Over to you

Think about a festival you know and answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else.

- 1 What kind of festival is it? Is it an arts festival or a traditional festival?
- 2 How often is it held?
- 3 When and where does it take place?
- 4 How long does it last?
- 5 What does it consist of?
- 6 Are there any special traditions or customs as part of the festival?