



Nowruz email

Level 3

What do you know about Nowruz? Practise your reading in English with this email.

Reading practice



Preparation



Match the words with the definitions.

Persia	to make a loud noise by hitting something
to celebrate	round containers used for cooking
a bonfire	an old name for the country of Iran
to bang	the official language of Iran
pots and pans	the opposite of illness
to decorate	a big fire, often in a festival
Farsi	to do something to show that it's a special day
health	to make something nice to look at



Reading text

Read the email.



From: Baba borzog [Grandpa]

Subject: Happy Nowruz!

Hi Leila,

How are you? What's the weather like in the UK? Here in Iran it's quite warm and sunny, as it's nearly spring.

As you know, it's the Persian New Year celebration, Nowruz, very soon. We're busy getting everything ready. What about you? Are you and the family over there in the UK preparing for Nowruz too? The celebrations last for 13 days in Iran!

Your grandmother and I have cleaned our house from top to bottom and decorated it with lots of flowers. It was hard work but it's important to start the new year fresh and clean.

Yesterday we went shopping for new clothes. I bought some new trousers and a shirt. New clothes mean a fresh start for next year! What new clothes are you going to wear for Nowruz?

Tomorrow's the last Wednesday before Nowruz. It's a special day here when people light bonfires in the street and jump over them! It's noisy too, as the children bang on pots and pans. They knock on doors and ask for sweets.

Are you learning all about Nowruz and the *haftseen* table at Persian school? I'm sure you know that we put seven special objects on the *haftseen*, all beginning with the sound 's' in the Farsi language. The objects have special meanings and they represent what we hope for in the new year. Apples (*seeb*) are for health and beauty. What are you going to put on your *haftseen* table? Do you know the words in Farsi?

All of your cousins, aunts and uncles are going to come to celebrate with us. The new year starts at the exact moment when winter changes to spring. That's when we give each other presents.

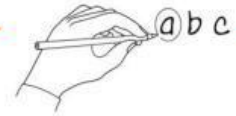
We all wish you could be here to celebrate Nowruz with us. Maybe next year!

Happy Nowruz!

Love from your grandfather, Baba borzog

P.S. This is our *haftseen* table, do you like it?

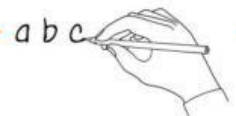




1. Choose the answer!

Read the sentence. Circle the correct answer.

- Nowruz is a celebration at the beginning of _____. **spring** / summer / winter
- In Iran Nowruz lasts for _____ days. **7** / 13 / 30
- It's important to clean your _____ before Nowruz. **teeth** / car / house
- People wear _____ clothes to celebrate Nowruz. **new** / bright / old
- The _____ before Nowruz, people jump over bonfires. **Monday** / Wednesday / Friday
- Children knock on doors and ask for _____. **goldfish** / eggs / sweets
- The 'haftseen' is a special _____. **cupboard** / table / picture
- The _____ means health and beauty. **banana** / pear / apple



2. What's the order?

Put the words in the correct order.

- New Year is the Persian Nowruz celebration.
Nowruz is the Persian New Year celebration.
- clean. to start year fresh and It's important the new
It's important to start the new year fresh and clean.
- for next mean year! clothes a fresh start New
New Year means a fresh start for next year!
- light bonfires them. and jump People over
People jump over bonfires and light them.
- pans. on pots and Children bang
Children bang pots on pans.
- 'haftseen' table. seven We put objects on the special
We put seven objects on the special 'haftseen' table.
- Farsi the sound in the language. They 's' begin with
They begin with 's' the sound in the Farsi language.
- give We other each presents.
We give each other presents.

When's the new year where you live? How do people celebrate? Draw a picture and write about it!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.