

EXERCISE 1: Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

PANCAKE DAY



Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is a special day (1) _____ the UK. It is always 47 days (2) _____ Easter Sunday, so (3) _____ usually falls in February (4) _____ March.

The word "shrove" comes (5) _____ the English word "shrive", (6) _____ means to get rid of your sins (7) _____ confessing (8) _____ to a priest. Long (9) _____, Christians went to church (10) _____ Shrove Tuesday to confess (11) _____ sins before the season (12) _____ Lent began. During Lent, many people give (13) _____ certain foods for 40 days (14) _____ Easter. These foods include meat and fish, milk, cheese and eggs. So, the day before Lent started, people used up these foods in their houses. They made pancakes (15) _____ eggs, flour and milk and added butter (16) _____ sugar. This helped to use up their eggs and fat, which they couldn't eat (17) _____ Lent.

Today, some Christians still (18) _____ to church on Shrove Tuesday, but most people just enjoy eating pancakes. Some towns have pancake races. People run through the streets, carrying a frying pan with a pancake in it. They (19) _____ to throw the pancake in the air three (20) _____ and catch it (21) _____. The first person to cross the finishing line (22) _____ dropping their pancake wins! One famous pancake race is in Olney, a town in England. Every year, women there run the race in aprons and hats.

In Scotland, people often eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (23) _____, but they call them "drop scones". In Ireland, they sometimes make a big pancake that is as big (24) _____ a frying pan. They put things (25) _____ coins, buttons, rings and pieces of straw inside the pancake. They say that if you find a coin in (26) _____ piece of pancake, you will be rich; if you find a button, you (27) _____ never get married; if you find a ring, you will get married soon; and if you find a piece of straw, your next year will (28) _____ bad! For this reason, the Irish are (29) _____ careful (30) _____ they eat their pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!

EXERCISE 2: Find words in the text for the following definitions.

1. _____ : actions or types of behaviour which are believed to break the laws of God.
2. _____ : a member of the Christian clergy in the Catholic, Anglican, or Orthodox church.
3. _____ : the period of forty days before Easter, during which some Christians give up something that they enjoy.
4. _____ : stop doing something.
5. _____ : a competition in which all the competitors try to be the fastest and to finish first.
6. _____ : the dried, yellowish stalks from crops such as wheat or barley.