

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

adorn intimidate faux pas hallmarks customary auspicious
indulge indigenous wacky invigorate prosper

1. Haka. New Zealand



Have you ever watched a rugby match? «The *All Blacks*» are New Zealand's national rugby team and at the start of a game, the team performs a dance called *Haka*! The players follow the leader by chanting, stamping their feet, sticking out their tongues, slapping their bodies and making their eyes look wide and fierce in order to 1) _____ the enemy — or the other team in this case! Although Haka was sometimes danced in peaceful gatherings, this 2) _____ war dance was most often performed by New Zealand 3) _____ tribes before battle, to 4) _____ warriors as they headed into battle. Today, haka is used as a sign of respect and is performed on important occasions, such as sporting events, weddings, funerals, and powhiri (a traditional welcome). Since 1972 the performance of Haka has been one of the 5) _____ of the widely popular Te Matatini performing arts festival, held biennially /baɪ'ən.i.əl.i/ in New Zealand.

2. The Day of the Dead. Mexico



Día de Los Muertos in Spanish is a Mexican holiday that embraces death and celebrates life. The roots of the Day of the Dead go back about 3,000 years to pre-Columbian Mesoamerica's rituals honouring the dead. Celebrations begin on the day after Halloween and continue through November 2nd. Modern observances vary from region to region. In some rural areas, families 6) _____ grave sites with candles, flowers and the favourite foods of deceased relatives in an attempt to persuade the loved ones to return for a family reunion. In urban areas, people take to the street for festive celebrations and 7) _____ in the consumption of food and alcohol. Some wear wooden skull masks known as calacas. And don't forget the skeletons! During Day of the Dead, life-size papier-mâché skeletons and miniature plastic or clay skeletons are everywhere. The skeletons are posed doing all sorts of 8) _____ things, such as playing guitar, taking a bath, or making tortillas. Apparently, people aren't the only ones who get to have fun on Day of the Dead!

3. Don't Give Gifts in Sets of Four. China



In some cases, choosing the right quantity is almost as important as choosing the right gift itself. Because the words for “four” (si) and “death” (sì) sound similar in Mandarin, it's a serious 9) _____ to give gifts in fours. On the other hand, gifts given in pairs or eights are thought to be luckier. Two is generally thought to be a good number, and there is a saying that “good things come in pairs”. Eight is considered an especially 10) _____ number, both because its Mandarin and Cantonese pronunciations bā/baat sound similar to fā/faat, to 11) _____, and because the number 88 resembles the character 双, meaning double happiness.