



La Tomatina: the world's biggest tomato fight

This **festival** takes place every August in Bunol, Spain. People come from all over the world to participate in this huge social **occasion**, which includes music, dancing and **fireworks**¹. The main event is a tomato fight in which enormous quantities of overripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets for exactly one hour. The festival was banned in the 1950s, but in 1957 the young **folk** of the town protested by organizing a **parade** in which they **buried** a large tomato as if it were a dead body. The festival started again the following year.



Cherry Blossom Festival, Japan

Cherry blossom is the national flower of Japan. As spring **approaches**, people make special trips to various **sites** to see the first signs of the cherry trees in flower, which are sometimes **lit up** at night. The festival includes all sorts of delicious food, games, rides, **folk** music, **religious** **ceremonies** and a **beauty** **contest**.



fireworks



The Rio Carnival (‘Carnaval’)

One of the most incredible **entertainments** in the world, Carnival is a four-day **celebration** of music, dance, food and drink, all over Rio. The event **means a lot** to the people from the poorest **neighbourhoods**, who work hard for months preparing for it. It is an opportunity for the whole **community** to go out and **have fun** together. It ends with the Samba Parade for which the performers and **dancers** **dress up** in the most amazing **costumes**.

SPOTLIGHT **religion**

Religion is believing in one or more **gods** and the activities connected with this. Christians, Jews and Muslims believe that God made the world. **religious** *adj*

GLOSSARY

festival	a series of public events, e.g. concerts and shows	contest	a game or competition that people try to win
occasion	a time when sth happens	entertainment	things that people enjoy watching and listening to, e.g. TV, film, music, etc.
folk <i>inf</i>	people in general	entertain <i>v</i>	
parade	a celebration of a special event, usually with bands in the streets	celebration	a time when you enjoy yourself because you have a special reason to be happy
bury	put sth in a hole in the ground and cover it, especially a dead body	celebrate <i>v</i>	
approach	come nearer to sb/sth in distance or time: <i>We approached the church.</i>	mean a lot (to sb)	be very important (to sb)
site	a place where sth happens or happened	neighbourhood	an area of a town and the people who live there
light sth up	make sth bright with light	community	all the people who live in an area or town
folk <i>adj</i>	traditional in a community; of a traditional style: <i>folk music/art</i>	have fun	enjoy yourself
ceremony	a formal public or religious event	dancer	sb who dances
beauty	the quality of being beautiful	dress up	put on special clothes either for fun or for a formal event
		costume	special clothes people wear for a parade, a play, a party, etc.

- 1 Find words in the box with the same stress pattern as the words below. Use the **APP** to help you.
Practise saying the words.

entertainment bury ✓ celebrate contest religion neighbourhood parade

- beauty bury approach festival
occasion celebration

2 Yes or No?

- If you **bury** something, do you put it in the ground? Yes
1 If you **approach** something, do you get nearer to it?
2 Is a **neighbourhood** all the people in a town?
3 Is a **parade** something you buy?
4 Are **fireworks** generally used to start a fire?
5 Is a **celebration** a time when people enjoy themselves?
6 Is **folk music** very modern?
7 If something **means a lot**, is it hard to understand?
8 Is a **community** all the people who live in an area or town?

3 Match 1–7 with a–h.

- The older folk
1 Fireworks
2 Lots of people want to
3 The festival means
4 Everyone just wants to have
5 People dress up in
6 There is even a beauty
7 They played folk
a contest.
b songs on guitar.
c lit up the night sky.
d fun together.
e didn't like the tomato festival. ✓
f take part in the event.
g a lot to the community.
h special costumes.

4 Replace the underlined word(s) with a single word which has a similar meaning.

- We had a good time watching the show. fun
1 The gold was put in a hole in the ground so that nobody could find it.
2 It's a wonderful time when people enjoy themselves.
3 Every year, the dancers put on special costumes for the parade.
4 It's an important religious event.
5 He didn't want to come any nearer to us.
6 The festival is an important event in the local area where I live.
7 There is a lot of music, theatre, dancing, etc.
8 It's an important occasion for the people in our small town.

5 Choose the best word(s) in the box to complete each sentence.

celebrate costume buried religious ✓ God contest folk a lot occasion site

- The ceremony isn't religious.
1 We visited the of the old castle.
2 Carnival is a great
3 We wore a special for the event.
4 The festival attracts older and younger
5 For me, the event means
6 Christians believe in
7 On my birthday, I always in some way.
8 I my dead cat in the garden.

6 Complete the words in the questions.

- What important festivals do you have in your country?
1 Do any festivals take place in your n? If so, which?
2 Have you ever d u in a special costume for a festival? If so, what did you wear?
3 Are there usually performances by professional singers and d?
4 Are there any special o when there are f at night?
5 Do these different events m a lot to you personally?

3 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers to the questions in Exercise 6, or ask another student.



TEST YOURSELF