68 Festivals



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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 e
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 <u>underlined</u> word(s) with a single word which has a similar meaning.**

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

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 f<u>estivals</u> 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

LIVEWORKSHEETS