

8 Time to celebrate!

- Discuss holidays and special occasions
- Describe celebrations, annual events, and customs

1 SNAPSHOT

HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS



Day of the Dead
November 2nd
Mexicans make playful skeleton sculptures and bake *pan de muerto* – bread of the dead.



Thanksgiving
November
In the United States, families get together, have a traditional meal, and give thanks for life and health.

Saint Patrick's Day
March 17th
People of Irish background wear green to celebrate their culture with parades, dancing, parties, and special foods.



Chinese New Year
January or February
Chinese people celebrate the lunar new year with fireworks and dragon dances.



Do you celebrate these or similar holidays in your country?
What other special days do you have?
What's your favorite holiday or festival?

2 WORD POWER Ways to celebrate

A Which word or phrase is not usually paired with each verb? Put a line through it. Then compare with a partner.

1. eat	candy	sweets	~~a mask~~
2. give	presents	a celebration	money
3. go to	decorations	a wedding	a party
4. have a	picnic	beach	meal
5. play	games	candles	music
6. send	cards	flowers	a barbecue
7. visit	relatives	food	close friends
8. watch	a birthday	a parade	fireworks
9. wear	costumes	invitations	traditional clothes

B **PAIR WORK** Do you do any of the things in part A as part of a cultural or family celebration? When? Tell your partner.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 PERSPECTIVES Favorite celebrations

A Listen to these comments about special days of the year. Match them to the correct pictures.

___ **1.** "My favorite celebration is Mother's Day. It's a day when my husband and my kids make pancakes for me – just like I used to make for my mom – and I get to have breakfast in bed."

___ **2.** "February 14th is the day when people give cards and presents to the ones they love. I'm really looking forward to Valentine's Day! I already have a gift for my boyfriend."

___ **3.** "New Year's Eve is a night when I have fun with my friends. We usually have a big party. We stay up all night and then go out for breakfast in the morning."







B **PAIR WORK** What do you like about each celebration in part A?

4 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Relative clauses of time

Mother's Day is **a day**	**when** my kids make pancakes for me.
February 14th is **the day**	**when** people give cards to the ones they love.
New Year's Eve is **a night**	**when** I have fun with my friends.

GRAMMAR PLUS *see page 139*

A How much do you know about these times? Complete the sentences in column A with information from column B. Then compare with a partner.

A	B
1. Mother's Day is a day when _____	**a.** people sometimes play tricks on friends.
2. New Year's Eve is a night when _____	**b.** people celebrate their mothers.
3. April Fools' Day is a day when _____	**c.** many people like to go to the beach.
4. Valentine's Day is a day when _____	**d.** people in many countries honor workers.
5. Labor Day is a day when _____	**e.** people express their love to someone.
6. Summer is a time when _____	**f.** people have parties with family and friends.

B Complete these sentences with your own information. Then compare with a partner.

Winter is the season . . .
Birthdays are days . . .
Spring is the time of year . . .
Children's Day is a day . . .
July and August are the months . . .
A wedding anniversary is a time . . .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 LISTENING Time for Carnival!



Carnival in Brazil

A Listen to Vanessa talk about her trip to Carnival in Brazil. Write three facts about Carnival that she mentions.

B Listen again and answer these questions about Vanessa's experience.

Why did she have to book her hotel six months early?
What happened when Vanessa got lost?
What was her favorite thing about Carnival? Why?

C **PAIR WORK** Think of another famous celebration that is similar to Carnival. Describe it to the class. They will try to guess the celebration.

6 SPEAKING Favorite holidays



A **PAIR WORK** Choose your three favorite holidays. Tell your partner why you like each one.

A: I really like Independence Day.
B: What do you like about it?
A: It's a day when we watch parades and fireworks.
B: Do do you do anything special?
A: We usually have a barbecue. My father makes burgers, and my mother makes her special potato salad.

B **CLASS ACTIVITY** Take a class vote. What are the most popular holidays in your class?

7 WRITING An online entry

A Write an entry for a travel website about a festival or celebration where you live. When is it? How do people celebrate it? What should a visitor see and do?



B **PAIR WORK** Read your partner's entry. What do you like about it? Can you suggest anything to improve it?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 CONVERSATION A traditional wedding

A Listen and practice.



JULIA Is this a picture from your wedding, Anusha?

ANUSHA Yes. We had the ceremony in India.

JULIA And was this your wedding dress?

ANUSHA Yes. It's a sari, actually. In India, when women get married, they usually wear a brightly colored sari, not a white dress.

JULIA It's beautiful! So, what are weddings like in India?

ANUSHA Well, in some traditions, after the groom arrives, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers. We did that. But we didn't do some other traditional things.

JULIA Oh? Like what?

ANUSHA Well, before the wedding, the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate. But I'm an only child, and I don't have any female cousins, so we skipped that.

JULIA That makes sense. You know, I have heard about this one tradition . . . When the groom takes off his shoes, the bride's sisters steal them! I guess you didn't do that, either?

ANUSHA Oh, no, we did that part. My mom stole them!

B Listen to the rest of the conversation.
What does Anusha say about her wedding reception?

9 PRONUNCIATION Stress and rhythm

A Listen and practice. Notice how stressed words and syllables occur with a regular rhythm.

● ● ● ● ● ● ●
When women get married, they usually wear a brightly colored sari.

B Listen to the stress and rhythm in these sentences. Then practice them.

1. After the groom arrives, the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers.
2. Before the wedding, the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate.
3. When the groom takes off his shoes, the bride's sisters steal them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Adverbial clauses of time

When women get married,	they usually wear a brightly colored sari.
After the groom arrives,	the bride and groom exchange garlands of flowers.
Before the wedding,	the bride's female relatives usually have a party to celebrate.

GRAMMAR PLUS *see page 139*

A What do you know about wedding customs in North America? Complete these sentences with the information below.

1. Before a man and woman get married, they usually ___
2. When a couple gets engaged, the man often ___
3. Right after a couple gets engaged, they usually ___
4. When a woman gets married, she usually ___
5. When guests go to a wedding, they almost always ___
6. Right after a couple gets married, they usually ___

a. wears a long white dress and a veil.
b. go on a short trip called a "honeymoon."
c. give the bride and groom gifts or some money.
d. gives the woman an engagement ring.
e. begin to plan the wedding.
f. date each other for a year or more.

B **PAIR WORK** What happens when people get married in your country? Tell your partner by completing the statements in part A with your own information. Pay attention to stress and rhythm.

11 INTERCHANGE 8 It's worth celebrating.

How do your classmates celebrate special occasions? Go to Interchange 8 on page 122.

12 SPEAKING My personal traditions

A **GROUP WORK** How do you usually celebrate the dates below? Share your personal traditions with your classmates.

your birthday New Year's Eve your country's national day your favorite holiday

A: On my birthday, I always wear new clothes, and I often have a party. What about you?
B: I usually celebrate my birthday with my family. We have a special meal and some relatives come over.
C: I used to celebrate my birthday at home, but now I usually go out with friends.

B **CLASS ACTIVITY** Tell the class the most interesting traditions you talked about in your group. Do you share any common traditions? Did you use to celebrate those dates the same way when you were younger?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

13 READING

A Skim the article. Which of these phrases could be a title for this article?

The best New Year's resolutions
New Year's traditions around the world
How to host a New Year's Eve party



It's midnight on New Year's Eve. Clocks are striking twelve as people welcome in the coming year and say goodbye to the old. It's a time when people wish for good luck in the future and forget bad things in the past. Around the world, people do different things to help their wishes come true. Some of them might surprise you.

Food is often central to New Year's customs. In Ireland, they hit the walls and doors of their houses with loaves of bread. They hope this will make good luck enter the house and bad luck leave it. The Spanish and the Mexicans eat twelve grapes in twelve seconds – one for luck in each of the coming months. Eating grapes so fast isn't easy, but it's fun and often messy!

Colors are important, too. Brazilians, for example, choose their clothes very carefully – for peace they wear white, yellow might bring success, and red means love is in the air! The Chinese believe red brings good luck, so they like to dress in this color, too. They also paint the front door of their houses red and give family members and friends red envelopes containing money.

Some people destroy things on New Year's Eve because they want to forget the past. In Ecuador and Colombia, people make a dummy and fill it with sawdust, newspaper, or old clothes. They dress it, put a mask on it, and name it after someone famous or a friend or family member. Then they burn it.

And some customs have no reason at all; they just develop over time. On New Year's Eve in Germany, several TV stations show a short black-and-white movie called *Dinner for One*. It's a comedy in English, starring English actors. Nobody knows why they do this, not even the Germans!

B Read the article. Check (✓) True or False for each statement about New Year's customs. Then correct each false statement.

	True	False	
1. In Ireland, people eat loaves of bread for good luck.	☐	☐	
2. They eat apples for good luck in Spain.	☐	☐	
3. In China, people change the color of their doors.	☐	☐	
4. In Colombia, they burn a doll with old things inside.	☐	☐	
5. In Germany, people watch *Dinner for One* because it's about New Year's Eve.	☐	☐	

C What do the underlined words in the article refer to? Write the correct word.

1. them _____ **3.** one _____ **5.** they _____
2. this _____ **4.** They _____

D What do people in your country do for the New Year? What is your favorite New Year's tradition?

LIVEWORKSHEETS