

3.4 (1) DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

DVD PREVIEW

1 What special occasions do people usually celebrate in your country? What do people usually do on those occasions?

2 A Match the verbs with the phrases they go with.

1 have	a) a restaurant
2 eat	b) fireworks
3 go to	c) new clothes
4 sing	d) presents/gifts to each other
5 give	e) a party
6 watch	f) to special music
7 invite	g) special food
8 decorate	h) "Happy Birthday"
9 wear	i) guests
10 dance	j) your home

B Add more activities to the list above about things people do at special occasions.

3 Read the show information and answer the questions.

- 1 What is another name for Diwali? Why?
- 2 Which country is the show about?
- 3 Is the festival one day or more?

Diwali

Diwali, the Festival of Light, is an important time for more than a billion Hindus all around the world. It's a time of color and light, a time for family and new beginnings. This show joins Hindu families in the U.K. for Diwali, and looks at how they prepare for the five-day event and their different customs on each day of the festival.



There are different festivals related to light, one of them is Hanukkah; a Jewish holiday known as the *Festival of Lights*. This celebration lasts eight nights and days and is characterized by the lighting of the candles on a nine-branched candelabrum called *Menorah*.

DVD VIEW

4 A Watch the DVD. Which of the activities in Exercise 2A do you see? What other customs do you see?

B Work in pairs. Are sentences 1–8 true (T) or false (F)? Watch the DVD again and check your answers.

- 1 Diwali is always in October or November. *T*
- 2 It lasts for three days.
- 3 Men buy jewelry for their wives.
- 4 The woman throws a pakora* in two directions.
- 5 They make a picture out of colored paints.
- 6 The Hindu New Year's Day is the third day.
- 7 People visit their parents and children.
- 8 Fireworks are only on the last day of Diwali.

*pakora = an Indian snack food





American Speakout a special occasion

writeback describing an event

5 Read the description of Hogmanay below and underline the time expressions in the second paragraph.

In Scotland, we celebrate Hogmanay on New Year's Day in January every year. It's an important time for family and friends. It's a time to say "goodbye" to the old year and welcome the new year.

In my family, before Hogmanay we always clean the house, and then in the evening we have a big party. At midnight, we stand in a circle and sing *Auld Lang Syne*. It's a song about friends, old friends and new friends. Then we have a special custom. After midnight, the first visitor to the house gives us presents, usually shortbread or coal for good luck.

I love Hogmanay because all our friends and family come together, and it's a great start to the New Year!

A Think of a special occasion, e.g., a birthday, a national holiday or a wedding. Use the questions below to make notes about it.

- What's the name of the occasion?
- When and where does it happen?
- What do you usually do? Describe three or four activities.
- What's your favorite thing on that day?

KEYPHRASES

I want to talk/Let me tell you about ...

This/It happens in [place] on [date] ...

On [this day/the day before], we [always/usually/often/...]

We have a special custom.

I like it because ...

B Write a description of your special occasion from Exercise 5A. Write about 100 words.

