

13 READING

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

The best New Year's resolutions
How to host a New Year's Eve party

New Year's traditions around the world

Out with the Old, In with THE NEW



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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. They eat apples for good luck in Spain. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. In China, people change the color of their doors. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. In Colombia, they burn a doll with old things inside. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. In Germany, people watch <i>Dinner for One</i> because it's about New Year's Eve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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?