

# CALENDAS: A Colorful Tradition in Oaxaca

- **What is a Calenda?**

A *Calenda* is a joyful parade in Oaxaca, Mexico. People celebrate special occasions like weddings, patron saint festivals, and important holidays. The streets fill with music, dancing, and colorful decorations.

- **Music and Dancing**

A *Calenda* usually starts at a church. Musicians play lively tunes on brass instruments and drums. Women wear beautiful traditional dresses, and men wear white shirts and hats. Some people carry large paper lanterns on sticks, lighting up the streets.

- **Giant Puppets and Lanterns**

One of the most exciting parts of a *Calenda* is the *monos de calenda* (giant puppets). These tall figures dance through the streets. Another special element is the *marmota*, a large round lantern on a pole that spins in the air.

- **A Community Celebration**

As the parade moves, more people join in. They dance, sing, and throw confetti. Fireworks sometimes light up the night sky. A *Calenda* is a wonderful way for the people of Oaxaca to share their traditions and happiness.





## READING COMPREHENSION

### 1. What is a *Calenda*?

- a) A type of food
- b) A street parade
- c) A religious ceremony

### 2. Where does a *Calenda* usually start?

- a) In a park
- b) At a church
- c) In a school

### 3. What is a *mono de calenda*?

- a) A traditional Oaxacan dish
- b) A type of lantern
- c) A giant puppet

### 4. What do people do during a *Calenda*? (Choose two answers)

- a) Dance and play music
- b) Stay silent and pray
- c) Throw confetti and light fireworks

### 5. Would you like to see a *Calenda*? Why or why not?

(Write your answer)

## NARRATIVE TENSES

### 1) Fill in the Blanks (Past Simple vs. Past Continuous)

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. As the musicians \_\_\_\_\_ (**play**) their instruments, the people \_\_\_\_\_ (**dance**) in the streets.
2. The fireworks \_\_\_\_\_ (**light up**) the sky while the parade \_\_\_\_\_ (**move**) through the city.
3. A *mono de calenda* suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (**fall**) when the wind \_\_\_\_\_ (**blow**) too strongly.
4. The women \_\_\_\_\_ (**wear**) beautiful embroidered dresses while the men \_\_\_\_\_ (**carry**) lanterns.
5. As we \_\_\_\_\_ (**walk**) through Oaxaca, we \_\_\_\_\_ (**hear**) the sound of drums in the distance.

## 2 Past Perfect Practice

Rewrite the sentences using the past perfect to show which action happened first.

1. The parade started. Then, more people joined.  
→ More people joined after the parade \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The musicians arrived. Then, they began to play music.  
→ The musicians \_\_\_\_\_ before they began to play music.
3. The giant puppet fell. Then, people helped to fix it.  
→ People helped to fix the puppet after it \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We reached the town square. Then, the fireworks began.  
→ The fireworks \_\_\_\_\_ by the time we reached the town square.
5. The dancers performed. Then, the mayor gave a speech.  
→ The mayor gave a speech after the dancers \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3 Mixed Narrative Tenses

Choose the correct option (A, B, or C) to complete the sentences.

1. While the parade \_\_\_\_\_, the musicians played lively music.  
A) was moving  
B) had moved  
C) moved
2. The women \_\_\_\_\_ their traditional dresses before the celebration started.  
A) were wearing  
B) had worn  
C) wore
3. As we \_\_\_\_\_ in the crowd, we saw the first fireworks.  
A) had stood  
B) were standing  
C) stood
4. The giant puppet \_\_\_\_\_ down when the wind got too strong.  
A) was falling  
B) had fallen  
C) fell

5. Before the musicians arrived, the people \_\_\_\_\_ their places along the street.
- A) had taken
  - B) took
  - C) were taking

## PHRASAL VERBS

### 1 Match the Phrasal Verb with Its Meaning

Match the phrasal verbs with their correct definitions.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Set up          | A) To wear or organize something for an event  |
| 2. Take part in    | B) To appear or arrive at a place              |
| 3. Turn up         | C) To install or prepare something             |
| 4. Put on          | D) To be excited about something in the future |
| 5. Look forward to | E) To participate in an activity               |

### 2 Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with the correct phrasal verb.

(set up – take part in – turn up – put on – look forward to)

1. Many people from the town \_\_\_\_\_ the *Calenda* every year.
2. The dancers \_\_\_\_\_ their colorful dresses before the celebration.
3. I really \_\_\_\_\_ seeing the fireworks tonight!
4. We didn't expect so many people to \_\_\_\_\_ at the festival!
5. The musicians will \_\_\_\_\_ their instruments before the parade starts.

### 3 Rewrite the Sentences Using Phrasal Verbs

1. The organizers **prepared** the decorations early in the morning.  
→ The organizers \_\_\_\_\_ the decorations early in the morning.
2. Thousands of people **participated** in the parade.  
→ Thousands of people \_\_\_\_\_ the parade.

3. We were waiting for my friends, but they didn't **arrive**.  
→ We were waiting for my friends, but they didn't \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The dancers **wore** beautiful dresses for the event.  
→ The dancers \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful dresses for the event.
5. Everyone is **excited about** the festival next week.  
→ Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ the festival next week.