

Celebrating Special Days

Every country has special days and exciting celebrations. Let's take a look at some of them.



People in England celebrate spring on May 1st. On May Day, people put flowers and ribbons on a special pole. Children hold the ribbons and dance around the pole.



In China, people celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. This festival happens in September or October when the moon is very big and bright. Children wear colorful masks and dance in the streets. They also eat sweet cakes called mooncakes.



Italy is famous for its carnivals. In February and March, there are parties in the streets. People wear masks, and the children throw small pieces of paper called confetti.



In Japan, people celebrate the star festival, Tanabata. In July and August, people write wishes on paper. They hang the wishes on bamboo to make a "wish tree."

- ☐ May Day
- ☐ Mid-Autumn Festival
- ☐ Carnivals in Italy
- ☐ Tanabata

Exercise 1: Write True or False

1. On May Day, children dance around a pole with flowers and ribbons.
2. Tanabata is celebrated in China.
3. In Italy, people throw paper called confetti during carnivals.
4. The Mid-Autumn Festival happens in summer.
5. In Japan, people hang their wishes on bamboo.

Exercise 2: Fill in the Blanks

1. May Day is celebrated in
2. The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated in
3. People in Italy wear during carnivals.
4. Children in China eat during their festival.
5. The festival of Tanabata takes place in and

New Year's Eve

People all over the world celebrate New Year's Eve on the night of December 31st. It's the last day of the year, and there are a lot of parties. But celebrations at midnight are very different in different places.



In Spain, people eat twelve grapes at twelve o'clock – one with every chime of the clock. People think that the grapes bring good luck for the next year. Then there are fireworks.



In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay. At midnight, people hold hands and sing a special song about old friends. Then they visit their friends' and family's homes. The first person through the door gives a piece of coal to bring good luck to the family.



In Japan, people eat a special noodle soup on New Year's Eve for good luck. They eat the soup and listen to a bell ring 108 times at midnight. They believe the bell takes away 108 bad things before the New Year.

Exercise 3: Write True or False

1. In Spain, people eat grapes at twelve o'clock.
2. In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called
3. The first person through the door in Scotland brings a piece of
4. In Japan, people eat special soup on New Year's Eve.
5. A bell rings times in Japan at midnight.

Exercise 4: Choose the Correct Answer

1. What do people in Spain eat at midnight on New Year's Eve?
 - a) Cake
 - b) Noodles
 - c) Grapes
 - d) Mooncakes
2. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
 - a) New Year's Night
 - b) Hogmanay
 - c) Bell Festival
 - d) Fireworks Day

3. In Scotland, what do people give for good luck?
- a) A candle
 - b) A coin
 - c) A gift
 - d) A piece of coal
4. In Japan, what do people eat on New Year's Eve?
- a) Rice balls
 - b) Noodle soup
 - c) Bread and cheese
 - d) Grapes
5. Why does a bell ring 108 times in Japan?
- a) To wake everyone up
 - b) To scare away bad spirits
 - c) To take away 108 bad things
 - d) To celebrate 108 years
6. What happens in Spain after people eat grapes?
- a) They go to bed
 - b) They sing songs
 - c) There are fireworks
 - d) They listen to bells
7. What do people in Scotland do at midnight?
- a) Light fireworks
 - b) Eat grapes
 - c) Hold hands and sing
 - d) Write wishes on paper
8. When do people celebrate New Year's Eve?
- a) December 25th
 - b) January 1st
 - c) December 31st
 - d) February 14th