

Celebrating New Year's Day (worksheet)

Activity 1

Watch the video. What is happening?



Activity 2

Ways to celebrate the New Year.

Read the text and answer the questions:

- When is New Year celebrated?
- How and where is New Year celebrated in this country?
- What New Year traditions are observed in this country?

People all over the world have different ways of welcoming the start of a new year. Many cultures celebrate the New Year on January 1, but others celebrate at different times. Many cities and countries are very proud of their New Year celebrations. Cities organize street parties with fireworks, music, food and dancing. Let's find out more!

Here are some examples of how New Year's Day is celebrated in different countries:



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AUSTRALIA

In Australia they celebrate the New Year on January 1. This day is a public holiday and many people have picnics and camp out on the beach. They have parties that start on December 31 and at midnight they start to make noise with whistles, car horns and church bells to ring in the New Year. In Australia New Year is a day for outdoor activities such as rodeos, picnic races and surf carnivals.



CHINA

The Chinese New Year "*Yuan Tan*" takes place between January 21 and February 20. The exact date is fixed by the lunar calendar, in which a new moon marks the beginning of each new month. For many families, it is a time for feasting, visiting relatives and friends. The celebrations are based on bringing luck, health, happiness, and wealth till the next year. They clean their houses to rid them of last year's bad luck before the celebrations begin. There are street parades with dancing dragons and lions. The dragon is associated with longevity and wealth. The loud noises are intended to frighten away evil spirits and bad luck that the spirits might bring. The Chinese also go to the markets to buy plants and flowers that will bring them good luck for the New Year. The Tangerine is lucky because of its bright color and they are always given in pairs.

SPAIN

In Spain, 31 December is a very special celebration, where the fun and partying go on well into the early hours. The eating of grapes is a great tradition of New Year's Eve. You have to eat grapes one by one, in time with the striking of the clock at midnight on 31 December. Each of these twelve grapes are said to represent each month of the year. If you manage to eat all the grapes on time, you will have a year of good luck. In fact, the striking of the clock is broadcast live on television throughout Spain. On this day, family or friends usually get together for a delicious dinner and then the twelve grapes. In many villages, towns and cities, people head to squares or other emblematic places with a clock to eat them together and share the last minutes of the "old" year.



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ITALY

In Italy New Year is usually not a family holiday but with friends (because Xmas Eve and Christmas day are with family). It's typical to eat lentils at midnight just after the champagne because they are thought to represent money, so eating them is like hoping that they bring real money in the new year. In some cities, especially in the south of Italy- the Italians throw old plates and glasses out of the window after dinner, to get rid of the old and start with the new. It can be very dangerous to be out at midnight in these cities because a plate might land on your head

THE USA

The Americans organise Dance parties on New Year's Eve (31st of December) to see in the year. Times Square in New York City has a ball drop hosted by the television celebrity Dick Clark. In New York's Time Square they watch for the moment when a giant brightly colored electric apple is lowered to the ground at which time they start saying Happy New Year. This is broadcast all over the United States. At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve people will kiss or honk car horns. A soul food of black-eyed peas and rice called Hoppin' John is eaten by some. In the US they believe that black-eyed beans are lucky. Other foods that are eaten at New Year are cake and champagne. The Americans also watch the Championship football games in stadiums or on their televisions.



ENGLAND

England celebrates the New Year from the evening of December 31st into January 1st. Traditionally it is a day with friends and not as widely celebrated as Christmas. Before 2000 people did not used to celebrate New Year with fireworks (they were reserved for Bonfire Night). More traditionally, on the stroke of midnight, people open the back door (to let the old year out) and ask the first dark haired man to be seen to come through the front door carrying salt, coal and bread. This means that the following year everyone in the house will have enough to eat (bread), enough money (salt) and be warm enough (coal).

SCOTLAND

In Scotland they always seem to celebrate New Year better than anywhere else. The celebration of New Year's Eve on the 31st of December is called "Hogmanay", the word comes from a kind of oat cake that was traditionally given to children on New Year's Eve. In Edinburgh the celebrations always include a massive party from Prince's Street to the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle. On New Year's Day (actually from the stroke of midnight) the tradition of first footing is observed. This is because the first person to come into a house in a New Year is thought to affect the fortunes of everyone who lives there. Generally strangers are thought to bring good luck. People therefore visit each other carrying 'gifts' that include whisky and coal.

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro has a huge party for New Year (1st January) with fireworks. At least 2,000,000 people all dressed in white are there to watch and take part. White is the base outfit for anyone coming in for New Year's Eve in Rio, because people believe that different colors attract different kinds of luck. White is of course about peace. Green means good health, yellow for money. Red is to attract passion and romance. Purple denotes inspiration. Choosing the right underwear will make you look good and trendy.

Listen and complete the table

Country	Date	How and where	Traditions
Australia			
China			
Spain			
Italy			
The USA			
England			
Scotland			
Brazil			

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Activity 3

New Year's resolutions.

Every New Year, people make New Year resolutions. A New Year resolution is a promise to yourself to change an aspect of your lifestyle.

Match the resolutions and the sentences:

		
1.	2.	3.
		
4.	5.	6.
		
7.	8.	9.

- A. I **will** take good care of my health, lose some weight or maybe go on a diet. I will eat less chocolate and definitely will give up eating junk food.
- B. I **will** be fit the whole year. I will join a gym and go there twice a week or maybe I will take up a new sport.
- C. I **will** enjoy my life more, be optimistic and happy.
- D. I **will** be organized and disciplined.
- E. I **will** go early to bed and also wake up early, worry less and work less. I will relax more at the weekends.
- F. I **will** spend more fruitful time with my family and good friends.
- G. I **will** start a new hobby and join an English speaking club. I'd like to learn a new skill, for example how to cook, paint or play an instrument.
- H. I **'m going to** study more, do all my homework and of course read more.
- I. I **'m going to** get a Saturday or holiday job, save more money, spend less and be careful with pocket money.

Write your three New Year's resolutions:

- WILL + VERB
 - AM / IS / ARE + GOING TO + VERB
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Compare with your partner. Do you have similar resolutions? Do you think you will keep the resolutions?

Activity 4

Discussion:

Make questions and ask your partner:

What / do on New Year's Eve?



What / do on New Year's Day?



Where / celebrate New Year?



How / prepare for New Year?



/ have any family tradition?



When / open presents?



When / your best New Year's Day?



What / your favorite holiday food?



/ have Christmas tree? When/ put up /
take down?



What / usually do during the holiday
season?



/ have a favorite New Year film?



/ enjoy holiday shopping?



What / the greatest lesson you learned
in 2017?



What / want to learn in 2018?



What / the hardest thing this year?



What / want to get better at?



What / your favourite memory in
2017?



What / want to stop doing in 2018?



Where / want to travel in 2018?



If you had the power, what would you change about your school or work?



Activity 5

Gifts.

Watch the video and answer the questions:



1. What gift does Penny give Sheldon? Why is it so important?
2. How does Sheldon react to his gift?
3. What gift does Penny give Leonard? Does he like it?
4. What gift does Leonard give Penny? Does she like it?

Discuss the questions with your partner:

- 1) For what occasions do you normally exchange gifts with your family and friends?
- 2) How do you choose the gifts to give? Do you ever create handmade gifts?
- 3) Do you prefer getting surprise gifts or do you hint what you'd like to get?
- 4) Have you been surprised by any gift? Was it a good or bad surprise? Why?
- 5) What do you usually do when you don't like a gift you've got?

Questions adjusted from <http://busyteacher.org/14060-christmas-gifts-video-worksheet.html>

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