

Fascinating Festivals around the world

Intermediate level

Task 1 - Warm-up

Look at the pictures. What's unusual about them? What feelings arouse in you when you look at them? Why?



Task 2 - Lead - in

Discuss the questions in pairs.

1. What holidays do you really look forward to?
2. How do you feel about attending festivals and celebrations that attract huge crowds?
3. Do people nowadays tend to appreciate what public holidays are meant to celebrate, or do they just treat them like any other day off?
4. What local festival in your country would be the most interesting for a foreign guest?
5. How would you feel if there weren't any festivals?



Task 3 - Vocabulary

Read the sentences and choose the appropriate meanings of the highlighted words.

1) All around the world, people have reason to celebrate, and there's nothing better to do so than by **hosting** a festival.

- a) taking place
- b) organising
- c) going



2) These **unassuming** vegetables **take centre stage** on the 23rd of December in the Mexican city of Oaxaca.

- a) modest; are at the centre of attention.
- b) Important; are held
- c) modest; are held

3) Locals use vegetables to carve **intricate** designs and create different figures.

- a) simple
- b) new
- c) elaborate

Task 3 - Vocabulary

4) Each year plenty of paper lanterns are **launched** into the sky.

- a) started
- b) sent out
- c) taken

5) This festival was beautifully **depicted** in an animated film called “Coco”.

- a) discussed
- b) filmed
- c) represented

6) The largest snow festival in the world **runs** from January 5th to February 5th.

- a) happens
- b) organises
- c) continues

7) Men wearing devil **outfits** come and run around the crowds.

- a) clothes
- b) scarves
- c) masks



Task 4 - Vocabulary work

Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words. Change the forms of the words if necessary (*host, unassuming, take centre stage, intricate, launch, depict, run, outfit*).

1. Her last musical ____ for six months on Broadway.
2. She started to hand him what looked like an ____ carving with the shape of an orange.
3. Next week the city is ____ a public holiday dedicated to the doctors who have fought against the virus.
4. His wide influence was due to his high character and ____ seriousness.
5. After his father's death, he was able to rise to power and ____.
6. She was in jeans and a man's dress shirt, her most unrevealing ____ to date.
7. The airline will ____ its new transatlantic service next month.
8. The exhibition showed a number of paintings, ____ a wide spectrum of society.

Task 5 - Vocabulary work

Answer the questions using the new words.

- 1) What are the widely spread ***festivals hosted*** in your country?
- 2) Do you like ***taking centre stage*** in whatever you do? Why yes/no?
- 3) What things can have an ***intricate*** design or mechanism?
- 4) When was the first capsule ***launched*** into the space?
- 5) What is your attitude towards wall paintings ***depicting*** famous festivals? Isn't it vandalism?
- 6) How long do winter holidays ***run*** in your country?
- 7) What is the best ***outfit*** to wear at Halloween?



Task 6 - Listening activity

Watch the video (00:00-01:57) and mark the sentences true/false/not mentioned.

1. Night of the radishes is at the centre of attention in December in Mexico.
2. Tourists use radishes to carve different figures at the festival.
3. Lantern festival is hosted in Taiwan.
4. Paper lanterns are launched into the sky by tourists.
5. People put the photos of the dead together with their favourite food or drink at Dia de los Muertos.



Task 7 - Listening activity

Watch the continuation of the video (02:27-04:09) and answer the questions.

1. On which holiday you can see oranges wherever you go?
2. How long does Venice festival run? What do people usually wear and do on these days?
3. Where and when does the biggest snow sculpture festival take place?
4. Who can take part in snow festival?
5. What festival is El Colacho?
6. Why do people jump over babies?

Task 8 - Discussion

Discuss the questions in pairs.

- 1) What summer festivals are usually hosted in your country? Are they going to be held this summer as well?
- 2) Is there any festival in your country dedicated to dead people? If yes, how do locals usually celebrate it? How long does it run?
- 3) What do you think is the most underrated festival? Why?
- 4) What role do competitions and prizes play at festivals?
- 5) What is the weirdest festival you have ever taken part in? What was unusual about it?



Keys

Task 3 Task 4

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 1 - b | 1 - ran |
| 2 - a | 2 - intricate |
| 3 - c | 3 - hosting |
| 4 - b | 4 - unassuming |
| 5 - c | 5 - take centre stage |
| 6 - c | 6 - outfit |
| 7 - a | 7 - launch |
| | 8 - depicting |

Task 6

- 1 - true
- 2 - false (locals)
- 3 - true
- 4 - not mentioned
- 5 - true

Task 7

1. At King's Day
2. Two weeks. They wear beautiful costumes and masks and dance a lot.
3. In China, from January 5th to February 5th.
4. People from all over the world
5. It is a baby jumping festival, a kind of mass baptizing event.
6. To protect children from bad luck and take away all their sins.