

Unit 1 Festivals

Match the pictures below with the names of the festivals, and tell your classmates of any other festivals you know.

Christmas

Halloween

Water-splashing Festival

Carnaval

Valentine's Day



Reading

Turn to page 2, and follow these group instructions:

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Group A | Read about Li Hua |
| Group B | Read about Mouri Aiko |
| Group C | Read about Paddy McGowan |
| Group D | Read about Mario Fernando |
| Group E | Read about Laura Karenina |

After you finish your reading, answer these questions.

1. Which country does he/ she come from?
2. What festival does he/ she have in their country?
3. When are these festivals celebrated?
4. How does he/ she celebrate their festival?

When you have finished, find a partner from each of the other groups. Tell them about the person you have read about. You can use the above questions to help you.

Couchsurfers share their festival stories



“You have friends all over the world, you just haven’t met them yet.” With this belief in mind, a bunch of people have found a new way to travel called couchsurfing. People know this trendy word from the website couchsurfing.com, which provides a platform for travelers to find a place to stay or to share their accommodation with other travelers. Couchsurfing is becoming more and more popular and connects 7 million people from over 1 million cities. Li Hua is a couchsurfer, and he has traveled to more than 20 cities and his house has been used by travelers from all over the world. The following are stories of festivals Li Hua and other travelers have visited.

Hello, my name is Li Hua. I am Chinese. Spring Festival is the most joyful festival in China, and it is also the day for family members to reunite. During the Spring Festival, people usually put Spring Festival scrolls up, hang lanterns, have family meals, stay up late and wait for the New Year bells to ring in. When the New Year bell rings, children get red envelopes containing money put there by their family as a symbol of good luck and good health. Every family sets off firecrackers. All the activities involve blessings and wishes of good will. For example, eating fish during the festival means everyone will have abundance in the following year, and giving oranges and apples symbolize good luck and good health.



My name is Mouri Aiko and I’m Japanese. The oriental cherry is in full bloom in spring and Japanese people really like cherry blossoms. Hence, every April, we celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival and always go where we can enjoy the cherry blossoms. We wear kimonos, sit under the cherry trees with our family or friends, drink Japanese Sake and eat traditional dishes. Sometimes, we even sing and dance.



My name is Paddy McGowan and I come from Ireland—a beautiful and peaceful European country. Saint Patrick's Day is the biggest traditional festival in our country. We celebrate this festival on the 17th of March. As part of the celebration, we not only have a grand parade through the streets, but also hold traditional music and dance sessions, gatherings with family and friends, parties, as well as church services. Green is our national color and the shamrock is our national plant, thus most Irish like wearing green clothes, green ties, green hats and green accessories on Paddy's day. Also, we drink green beer and eat green soda bread.



I'm Mario Fernando and I'm Spanish. Our most popular and liveliest festival is San Fermin, which lasts from July 6th till July 14th every year. The breathtaking and exciting running of the bulls, which is usually held in Pamplona - a small town in the north of Spain, is the major activity of this festival. In the mornings, a lot of people wear traditional white clothes, red ribbons and red belts, and stand along the streets or run ahead of hordes of galloping bulls. In the afternoons, some Spanish bullfighters give bullfighting performances in the ring. In the evenings, crowds gather in the streets and drink, with festive singing and dancing.





Hi, my name is Laura Karenina and I am American. In America, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. The most important thing on Thanksgiving Day is spending time with your family. On that day, many people go back home to have dinner with their family. Traditional foods for Thanksgiving are turkey and cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, and cornbread. After dinner, some families use the turkey's wishbone to make a wish; two people each take one side of the bone, make a wish, and pull. Whoever gets the larger part of the bone will have their wish come true. Many people are also willing to do charity work on Thanksgiving. Some people volunteer to serve food at a homeless shelter.



Read the stories again and tick each sentence as True or False.

	True	False
1. Couchsurfing is a new way to travel which allows travelers to stay at other travelers' home for a couple of days		
2. After a big meal, Chinese people usually go to bed early on New Year's Eve.		
3. At the Cherry Blossom Festival, Japanese people usually have fun with friends and family.		
4. In Ireland, people wear white clothes, red ribbons and belts on Saint Patrick's Day.		
5. At the San Fermin Festival, Spanish bullfighters give a bullfighting performance in the morning and crowds gather in the street in the afternoon.		
6. The most important thing on Thanksgiving Day is doing charity for the poor.		

Work in pairs, and write a description for each festival. Here is an example.

In China, Spring Festival is celebrated at Lunar New Year. People usually put Spring Festival scrolls up, hang lanterns, have reunion meals, stay up late, and children can get money from the elders...

Dialogue

K: Hi J, what are you doing here?

J: I'm getting some drinks for Cherry Blossom Festival and my friends all asked me to get some beer, but... there are so many people in the supermarket that I can't get in!

K: Cherry Blossom Festival? What's that? ...

J: It's a Japanese Festival, and people usually sit under the cherry blossom trees, sing songs and drink beers. You can come and join us tomorrow if you like

K: Well.....I'd love to, but I need to make some Easter eggs tomorrow.

J: You can make Easter eggs by yourself?

K: No. Actually, my mom always does it for our family, but she wants me to do it this year. Easter eggs are our tradition, so I guess I have to do it.

J: Sounds like a big job! But good luck, anyway.

Use these key phrases to make a dialogue.

Key phrases:

- How do people celebrate...
- People usually ...
- I usually...
- I want to ...
- I'd love to...

Listening

Work with your partner and write down what people usually do at each of the festivals shown. Then, listen to the conversation and check if your answers are the same.



A: Mid-autumn Festival



B: Dragon Boat Festival



C: Easter



D: Arbor Day

A. They...

B.

C.

D.

Listen and number the pictures, according to the sequence in which they are described.



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Listen again and complete the notes about different New Year's Day customs in the different countries.

Country	Activities
1 _____	When night falls, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • street parties • people enjoy music, 2 _____, _____, and fire shots in the air To remove trouble and misfortune, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people 3 _____ • and 4 _____ the door.
Spain	At 5 _____, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people eat 6 _____ grapes • each grape represents 7 _____
_____	The elders celebrate New year's in a unique way, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they wear 8 _____, fur hats, and 9 _____ by cracking whips in the air • to remove 10 _____
India	Instead of celebrating New Year's Day 11 _____, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people 12 _____ in each other's arms. • because they think 13 _____ and 14 _____.

Vocabulary task

Choose the correct *italicized* word.

- Does his absence make any *decision/ difference/ mistake* to your work?
- When you are learning how to sing, you have to learn how to hold your *breath/ hand/ promise* and relax at the same time.
- She will give *birth/ hope/ advice* soon and is going to the maternity hospital.
- The evening party always takes *steps/ action/ place* on New Year's Eve.
- I think we should go *back/ away/ beyond* to the first chapter.

Competition: when talking about these festivals, which words do you normally use? You may consult the word list at the end of the unit.

Spring Festival	Thanksgiving Day	Cherry Blossom Festival

Grammar Task

Read these sentences, and find and compare the common features and differences among the verbs. Do this with your partner.

- She *goes* to the supermarket every day.
 John always *carries* an umbrella to school.
 Tina sometimes *runs* with her mother on Saturday morning.
 Patty *has* twenty-three classes a week.
 Gideon often *stays* with his family in his spare time.
 Sarah usually *watches* TV after she *finishes* her homework.

Listen and put each verb in the correct column in the table.

Ending with /s/	Ending with /z/	Ending with /iz/

Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs below (each verb can be used more than once).

clean	stay	hold	go	sweep	cook	give
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- ___ she ___ her house on Spring Festival?
- They often ___ shopping on Christmas.
- Jason usually ___ dinner for his family on Thanksgiving Day.
- Fiona hardly ever ___ parties for her friends.
- He always ___ up late to watch.
- They ___ (negative) ___ the floor on New Year's Eve.
- She ___ (negative) ___ gifts to her boyfriend on Valentine's Day.
- ___ you usually ___ a meal for your parents.

Change these sentences to negative and then to question form.

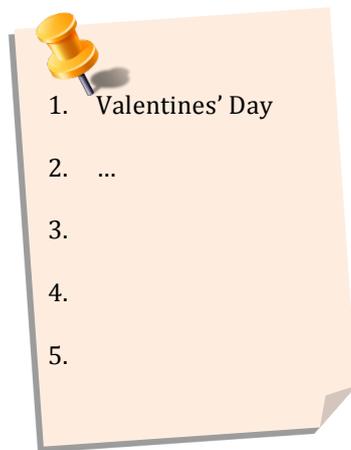
- You get chocolate on Valentines' Day.
 _____ . (Negative)
 _____ ? (Question)
 What _____ on Valentines' Day?
- Anna sweeps the floor on Spring Festival.
 _____ . (Negative)
 _____ ? (Question)
 What _____ on Spring Festival?
- They never cook a meal on Thanksgiving Day.
 _____ . (Negative)
 _____ . (Question)

Reorder the words to make complete sentences.

1. shopping/ Saturday/ on/ morning/ I/ go/ always.
2. late/ is/ ever/ hardly/ she/ class/ for.
3. never/ library/ the/ in/ they/ study.
4. he/ watching/ enjoy/ usually/ doesn't/ Jing/ opera/ mother/ with/ his.
5. does/ morning/ the/ in/ he/ often/ day/ every/ jog?
6. do/ in/ biology/ great/ get/ mark/ you/ a/ exam/ sometimes?

Communication Task

With your group members, make a list of five festivals or national holidays that you like and say why you like them. Discuss which festival is the most popular, and how people usually celebrate it.



Work in pairs. Ask your partner questions and complete the survey.

<u><i>A Survey of Secondary School Students' Spare Time Activities</i></u>				
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Gender:</i>	<i>Grade:</i>		
<i>How often do you...?</i>	<i>Always</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Never</i>
<i>go to movies</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>play sports</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>play mobile phone/computer games</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>shop on-line</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>listen to music</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>chat with friends on-line</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>go shopping with friends</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>cook a meal</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>do housework</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Writing Task

Work in pairs. Imagine a perfect festival. Give it a name and describe it.

This is Tony's house. Look at the picture and write down Tony's daily routines.



Grammar Awareness

Present Simple

I Present simple is used for:

- 1 Permanent or general situations
Example: He works as a doctor.
I live in Beijing.
- 2 Routines or habits
Example: We go to the supermarket every Sunday.
He usually plays basketball after class.
- 3 Facts / universal truth.
Example: Water boils at 100 degrees celsius.

* Present simple is associated with these adverbials:
usually, never, hardly ever, sometimes, often, always, every day, on Mondays, etc.

II Present simple in affirmative & negative

1 Affirmative:

I You We You They	clean ...
He She	cleans...

Example: I clean my house once a month.
He usually takes a bath in the morning.

2 Negative:

I You We You They	do not/ don't	clean ...
He She	does not/ doesn't	

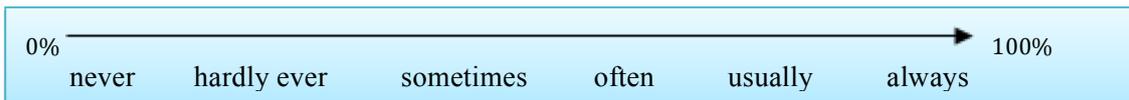
Example: She does not clean her house every day.

3 Question form

Do	I You We You They	cook ...
Does	He She	

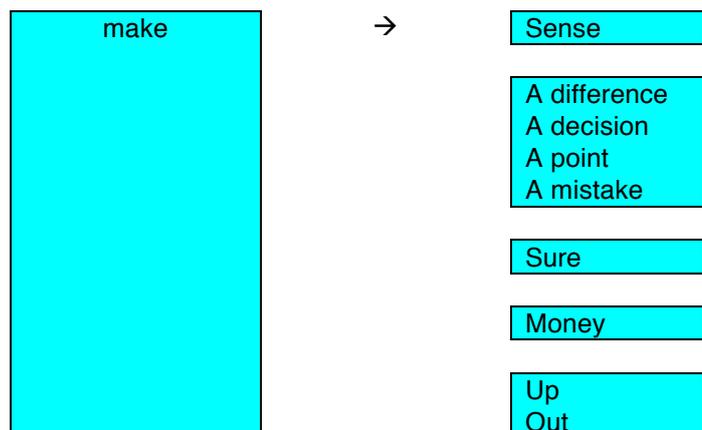
Example: Do you never cook a meal by yourself?
Does he often travel aboard in summer vacation?

Adverbs of frequency



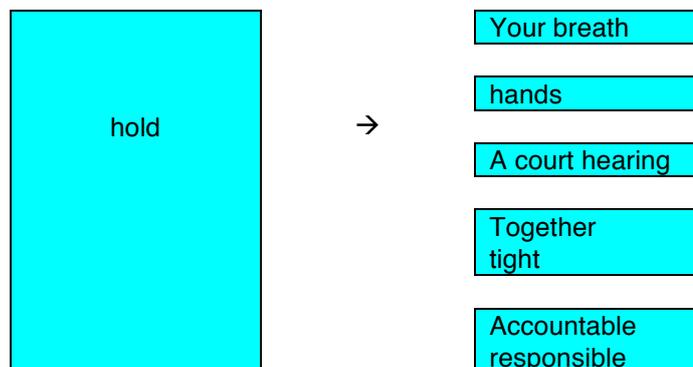
Examples: He always arrives on time.
He usually goes to school about seven o'clock.
I often take a walk during my lunch break.
Sometimes I go to school on foot.
He hardly ever passes his exams.
You never know what you will find at a flea market.

Word Awareness



Examples:
I have **made a decision** about my study goal for the new term.
He **makes money** by selling.
This sentence doesn't **make sense**.
We need to **make sure** our user interfaces provide answers to both of these questions.
The captain said that he could **make out** a house on the shore.

Colligation for <i>make</i>	
Pattern	Example
+ <i>it</i> + adjective/comparative	Let's make it easier . I want to make it clear that whatever I did, I still love my family.
+sb+adjective/comparative/infinitive (without <i>to</i>)	He always makes me happy . It makes me crazy !
+sb+feel+adjective/comparative	I don't want to make you feel guilty . I know you are trying to make me feel better .



Examples:

If money is lost, the person at the cash desk should be **held accountable**.

If all relatives stand nearby and **hold hands**, a child feels a part of single whole family. He is assured of general love to him.

How long can you **hold your breath** underwater? Take a deep breath and I'll time you.

Colligation for <i>hold</i>	
Pattern	Example
+ sb/sth	She puts her arms up to hold me for a moment.
+ sb/sth+ down	They are doing all they can to hold me down .
+ sb+back	They would hold me back and make force me to read their story.

Words you need to know

abundance (adj.): a large quantity; is more than enough.

accessory (usually plural)(n.): something that can be added to clothing for a useful or decorative purpose; body ornament 配饰, 装饰品

accommodation (n.): a place where one lives, or stays, but not for a long time.

always (adv.): every time, at all times; all the time and on every occasion; often and repeatedly 总是, 一直

couchsurfing (n.): travelers 'surf' on couches by staying as a guest at a host's home; may also provide free accommodation to travellers. 沙发客

entertainment (n.): shows, films, music, televisions and other activities that amuse people 娱乐, 消遣

envelope (n.): a container that is made of paper, used for sending letters in. 信封, 封皮

firecracker (usually plural)(n.): a firework that explodes with a loud noise.

never (adv.): not at any time. 从不, 绝不

often (adv.): many times on different occasions or in many cases 常常, 时常

oriental (adj.): something related to the orient; countries located in the east and southeast of Asia. 东方的

parade (n.): a public celebration of a special day or event, usually with a large number of people walking in the streets, with bands and decorated vehicles. 游行

performance (n.): a dramatic or musical entertainment; how well or badly a person does something 表演, 行为

reunite (vi. & vt.): people coming together again after they have been separated for a long time.

sometimes (adv.): occasionally, rather than all of the time 有事, 间或

usually (adv.): something that most often happens, or is usual and normal 通常, 经常

wishbone (n.): a v-shaped bone between the neck and breast of a chicken; two people snap it in half and the one who gets the longer piece makes a secret wish 如愿骨, 叉骨