

Holiday Traditions Around the World

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)



WARM-UP

Part 1. Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you celebrate Christmas, New Year, both, or neither?
2. What happens in your home at this time of year?
3. Do you prefer quiet holidays or busy holidays?
4. What food, music, or activities mean "holiday season" to you?

Part 2. Read the quotes. Choose one you connect with and explain why.

"The smallest rituals create the biggest memories."

"Holidays aren't about what we do - they're about who we're with."

"Traditions connect us to the people we love."

Discuss:

- Which one feels true for you?
- Which one doesn't match your culture?
- Which one reminds you of your own celebrations?



Part 3. Match the tradition with the correct country.

Germany	Philippines	Colombia	Iceland
Sweden	Japan	Mexico	United Kingdom

1. Families eat KFC as a Christmas meal.
2. People visit colourful Christmas markets.
3. A huge straw goat is displayed in a town square.
4. Giant lanterns light up the streets for a festival.
5. Children receive gifts from 13 friendly characters.
6. People walk through the streets re-enacting Mary and Joseph's journey.
7. Thousands of candles are lit on the night of 7 December.
8. Many people spend the day relaxing after Christmas with games, food, or shopping.

Part 4. Discuss the following questions.

1. Which tradition is new for you?
2. Which one would you like to try?
3. Which one is similar to something in your country?

Part 5. Read about some surprising traditions and say what you think.

1. In Norway, many people hide their brooms on Christmas Eve.
2. In Finland, visiting a sauna is a holiday tradition.
3. In Venezuela, people roller-skate to early-morning church services.
4. In Australia, many families celebrate Christmas at the beach.

Discuss:

- Which one is the most surprising?
- Which one would you enjoy?
- Could any of these traditions work in your country?



READING ACTIVITY

Read the following text and discuss the questions.

What Makes a Tradition?

Traditions can look very different around the world, but they all share one purpose: bringing people closer. They help us feel connected, comforted, and close to the people we love. Some traditions are cultural, some are personal, and some are unique to our families. Even simple things, like watching the same film or cooking the same meal, can become special memories.

Discuss:

- What makes a tradition meaningful to you?
- Are traditions changing in your culture today?

VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

Part 1. Read the conversations and guess the meaning of the words in bold.

1. "Every year we do the same little **ritual** at home – hot chocolate and music."
"That sounds **cosy**."

2. "This dish is **passed down** from my grandmother."
"So it's part of your family history."

3. "We always **get together** on the 24th."
"It's the only day everyone is free."

4. "It feels **festive** when the lights go up."
"Yes, it changes the whole atmosphere."

5. "This is a family **tradition** we never miss."
"I like that. It keeps people close."

6. "This is part of our **cultural** celebrations."
"It looks beautiful."

Part 2. Finish the sentences with your own ideas.

- A simple holiday **ritual** in my family is...
- I like to make myself **cosy** by...
- A food or recipe that has been **passed down** in my family is...
- During the holidays, we usually **get together** at...
- Something that feels **festive** in my country is...
- A family **tradition** I enjoy is...
- A **cultural** celebration in my country is...

Part 3. Choose one and explain your choice.

Quiet holiday at home	or	Travelling
Traditional food	or	Trying something new
Midnight celebrations	or	Early night
Big family gatherings	or	Small group



Part 4. Look at the four pictures and discuss the questions.



1. Which photo feels like your holiday season?
2. Which photo brings back a good memory?

Part 5. Discuss the questions below.

1. What if you spent the holidays in another country – where would you choose and why?
2. What if you tried a completely new tradition this year?
3. What if you couldn't celebrate in the usual way – what would you miss most?

REFLECTION

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- One tradition that means a lot to me is...
- One tradition I want to try is...
- Holidays feel special to me because...

