Holidays and celebrations ESL lesson plan (A1)

A1 (beginner) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- When is your birthday?
- What do you do on your birthday?
- What is the most important holiday in your country?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
birthday	the day of the year when you were born	When is your birthday?
party	a social event where people eat, drink and have fun	Come to my party on Saturday!
present	something you give to someone on a special day	Thank you for the present.
gift	a present	I bought a gift for my sister.
cake	a sweet food made with flour, eggs and sugar	We made a chocolate cake.
candle	a stick of wax that you burn to give light	Blow out the candles!
card	folded paper with a picture and a message	I sent her a birthday card.
Christmas	the Christian holiday on December 25th	We have a big dinner at Christmas.
New Year	the start of the year, on January 1st	Happy New Year!
holiday	a special day when people don't work	Monday is a public holiday.

Grammar focus (10 min): Going to: plans

It's the 31st of December. Three friends talk about the new year. Ines says: "I'm going to learn to swim. Max is going to look for a new job, and we're going to travel to Japan in the summer!" By the end of this lesson you can talk about your plans and ask about other people's.

Form	Pattern	Example
Affirmative	am / is / are + going to + base form	I'm going to learn to swim.
Negative	'm not / isn't / aren't going to	We aren't going to stay.
Question	Are you going to...? · What are you going to...?	Is she going to come? — Yes, she is.
When	tomorrow · next week · this summer · in July	next month (no preposition)

Watch for: ~~I going to study tonight.~~ → **I'm going to study tonight.**. You need be.

Speaking (15 min): Invite me to your festival

The learner invites you to a celebration from their country: when, where, what to wear, what to bring and one thing you must not do. You ask questions as a nervous guest.

Useful language

- We usually... / We always...
- People dress up as... / People get together to...
- It's a tradition to...
- It takes place on... / It lasts for...
- to celebrate · to decorate · to toast · to wrap
- Happy New Year! / Congratulations! / Cheers!

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about holidays and celebrations using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A1 holidays and celebrations vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 21 words.

Holidays and celebrations (A1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

give · celebrate · vacation · sing · invite · dances · open · balloons

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. We _____ Happy Birthday.
2. Everybody _____ at the party.
3. We go on _____ in August.
4. I want to _____ all my friends.
5. Can I _____ my present now?
6. How do you _____ your birthday?
7. I _____ my mom flowers on her birthday.
8. The room is full of _____.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. What do you eat on that day?
2. Who do you celebrate with?
3. Do you give presents? When?
4. What is your favourite holiday?
5. What did you do last New Year's Eve?

Write

Write 80–120 words about holidays and celebrations. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 sing · 2 dances · 3 vacation · 4 invite · 5 open · 6 celebrate · 7 give · 8 balloons