Holidays and celebrations ESL lesson plan (A2)

A2 (elementary) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	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
festival	a special day or period with events and celebrations	There's a music festival in July.
tradition	something people have done in the same way for a long time	It's a family tradition to eat fish on Fridays.
traditional	following old customs	We wear traditional clothes for the festival.
decorations	pretty things you put up for a celebration	We put up the decorations in December.
decorate	to make something look nice for a special event	Let's decorate the tree.
fireworks	things that explode with colored lights in the sky	We watched the fireworks at midnight.
guest	a person you invite to your home or an event	We had fifty guests at the party.
host	a person who invites guests	The host welcomed everyone at the door.
costume	special clothes you wear to look like someone else	What costume are you wearing for Halloween?
parade	a line of people walking through the streets to celebrate	The parade starts at ten.

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.
- Self-study: the A2 holidays and celebrations vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Holidays and celebrations (A2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

Valentine's Day · surprise party · wedding · had fun · toast · Halloween · anniversary · wrap

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. We're going to a _____ in June.
2. We organized a _____ for Dad.
3. Kids go trick-or-treating on _____.
4. We _____ at the festival.
5. It's our tenth wedding _____.
6. Let's make a _____ to the happy couple!
7. He sent her roses on _____.
8. I need to _____ the presents.

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 wedding · 2 surprise party · 3 Halloween · 4 had fun · 5 anniversary · 6 toast · 7 Valentine's Day · 8 wrap