# Holidays and celebrations ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 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)

- Describe a celebration from your country to someone who has never seen it.
- Tell me about the best party you have been to.
- Which tradition do you love and which one would you happily skip?

## 2. Vocabulary (15 min)

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

| Word | Meaning | Example |
|---|---|---|
| **get-together** | an informal social meeting | We had a family get-together on the weekend. |
| **gathering** | a group of people who meet for a purpose | It was a small gathering of old friends. |
| **throw a party** | to organize a party | Let's throw a party for her birthday. |
| **custom** | a traditional way of doing something | It's a local custom to give money at weddings. |
| **feast** | a large, special meal | The wedding feast lasted five hours. |
| **ceremony** | a formal event with special traditions | The ceremony was in an old church. |
| **reception** | a formal party after a wedding | The reception was in a beautiful garden. |
| **occasion** | an important event or time | A birthday is a special occasion. |
| **festive** | happy and typical of a celebration | The streets look very festive. |
| **the holiday season** | the time around Christmas and New Year | Shops are busy during the holiday season. |

## 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 B1 holidays and celebrations vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

# Holidays and celebrations (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

## A. Word bank

**New Year's resolution · dresses up · honors · exchange gifts · showed up · religious · countdown · commemorates**

## B. Complete the sentences

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

1. Easter is an important _____ holiday.
2. Everyone _____ for the carnival.
3. The holiday _____ the end of the war.
4. My _____ is to exercise more.
5. We _____ on Christmas Eve.
6. The _____ to midnight started.
7. The festival _____ the city's patron saint.
8. Only half the guests _____.

## C. Talk with a partner

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

1. How did you celebrate your birthday as a child?
2. Have you ever celebrated a holiday in another country?
3. What is the best present you have ever received?
4. How do weddings work in your country?
5. What do you do on a public holiday?

## Write

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

### Answer key

**B. Complete the sentences:** 1 religious · 2 dresses up · 3 commemorates · 4 New Year's resolution · 5 exchange gifts · 6 countdown · 7 honors · 8 showed up