Holidays and celebrations ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper 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
milestone	a very important event or stage in life	Turning 40 is a big milestone.
festivities	the activities organized to celebrate something	The festivities went on until dawn.
extravagant	spending or costing much more than necessary	They threw an extravagant wedding.
low-key	quiet and without much fuss	We had a low-key celebration at home.
commercialized	changed to make money, losing its true meaning (British English: commercialised)	Christmas has become very commercialized.
heritage	the traditions and history of a country or group	The festival celebrates our cultural heritage.
observe	to follow a religious or traditional custom	Many families observe Ramadan.
ritual	a set of actions always done in the same way	Opening one present on Christmas Eve is our ritual.
revelers	people having a good time at a noisy party (British English: revellers)	Thousands of revelers filled the streets.
pageantry	impressive public ceremonies with special clothes	The royal wedding was full of pageantry.

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 B2 holidays and celebrations vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Holidays and celebrations (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

mark the occasion · party animal · lavish · painted the town red · let your hair down · once-in-a-lifetime · the life and soul of the party · rang in the new year

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. It's the weekend: time to _____.
2. It was a _____ experience.
3. After the exams we _____.
4. She's always _____.
5. My brother is a real _____.
6. We planted a tree to _____.
7. We _____ in Times Square.
8. They gave a _____ party for 300 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 let your hair down · 2 once-in-a-lifetime · 3 painted the town red · 4 the life and soul of the party · 5 party animal · 6 mark the occasion · 7 rang in the new year · 8 lavish