



# 3. CELEBRATIONS

## 3. Celebrations

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

(Joey Adams)



## Warmer

Find the 14 words associated with Easter in England in the grid below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
a	J	R	I	E	B	A	N	K	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
b	K	R	L	A	J	I	S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	V
c	E	E	A	S	T	E	R	B	U	N	N	Y	O	Q	H
d	R	S	E	T	E	J	S	I	I	L	O	T	E	N	L
e	B	U	K	E	T	I	M	U	B	C	C	Y	E	O	O
f	R	R	A	R	X	B	L	T	S	R	R	V	T	I	N
g	Q	R	C	E	U	V	C	I	O	S	U	E	A	T	A
h	N	E	L	G	J	F	Q	S	M	W	C	T	L	A	H
i	E	C	E	G	X	Q	S	P	Q	A	I	C	O	R	C
j	J	T	N	S	I	B	A	R	R	I	F	G	C	B	R
k	H	I	M	N	U	Y	X	I	A	G	I	O	O	E	U
l	F	O	I	N	R	R	C	N	W	F	X	A	H	L	H
m	E	N	S	D	B	Q	F	G	W	W	I	T	C	E	C
n	T	O	V	C	W	A	U	A	Z	R	O	Q	J	C	Z
o	A	K	K	B	L	G	X	M	Q	Q	N	K	V	U	K

Words to find:

BANKHOLIDAY    CELEBRATION    CHOCOLATE    CHURCH  
 CRUCIFIXION    EASTERBUNNY    EASTEREGGS    FAMILIES    HOLIDAYS  
 HOTCROSSBUNS    JESUS    RESURRECTION    SIMNELCAKE    SPRING

## 3. CELEBRATIONS



### Questions

1. Are festivals and celebrations important in your family?
2. What are your favourite family occasions?
3. Have you ever had a surprise party?
4. Why do you think young children enjoy birthday parties so much?
5. How would you decorate your home for a birthday party?
6. On what other occasions are your family together?
7. What customs and traditions are attached to Christmas?
8. Are Hungarian Christmas traditions different?
9. What and how do we celebrate at Easter?
10. How is Easter celebrated abroad?
11. Do you have your own family tradition?
12. What are festive meals like in your family?
13. Which is better for celebration: homemade dishes or going to a restaurant?
14. Is it a good idea to make presents for your loved ones rather than buy something in the shop?
15. How do Hungarians celebrate New Year's Eve?
16. What public holidays are celebrated nationwide?
17. Mention a few typically British public holidays.
18. What do Americans celebrate that is typical of their country?
19. Do you think it is a good idea to "import" holidays from abroad?
20. What special or unusual Hungarian festivals do you know of?



### Answers



#### 1. Are festivals and celebrations important in your family?

Absolutely. These are the occasions when the family members get together, either the nuclear or the extended family, depending on the nature of the festival. What I really like about them is that these are times when everybody's hectic lifestyle slows down a bit, we sit down together round a nicely laid table and spend a few happy hours eating and talking, simply enjoying our relatives' company.

#### 2. What are your favourite family occasions?

My absolute favourite is Christmas, definitely. It has such a special atmosphere that nothing can surpass. The whole of December is full of thrills and joy, the very expectation of the coming festival is exciting in itself. Those special smells and the sight of the glittering



## 3. CELEBRATIONS

Christmas tree is a surprise for me every year. I simply love looking at the faces of my loved ones after opening their presents from me. When I was younger I used to look forward to my birthdays very much, but now they are not so important any more.

### 3. Have you ever had a surprise party?

- a) Two years ago my best friends wanted to give me a real surprise and organized a party like that. I was totally unaware of what was going on as it was disguised as a casual Friday night get-together. Not suspecting anything I rang the bell of my friend's home but nobody answered. I tried the door and it was unlocked but I could see it was dark inside. I found it extremely strange but stepped in. At that moment the lights went on and all my friends were standing there in the hall with a birthday cake singing Happy Birthday. I was so astonished I couldn't say a word for minutes.
- b) No, never. As a matter of fact, I only saw such surprise parties in movies as they are very popular in some countries, as far as I know. I imagine it can be really heartwarming to experience that your family and your friends deeply care and want to see you happy on your special day.

### 4. Why do you think young children enjoy birthday parties so much?

Kids are always hungry for surprises and excitement, be it the present they get to the sweet taste of the birthday cake with the surprise marzipan figure on top. As most of them enjoy company, the very thought of spending a whole afternoon playing and having fun together with their best friends and relatives fills them with joy.

### 5. How would you decorate your home for a birthday party?

As I have two kids born in two different parts of the year we have spring and autumn birthday parties. These are long-awaited occasions for them as they usually count the number of nights they have to sleep through before the big day. On the day itself we usually decorate the children's room with colourful balloons and the dining-room where the cake is going to be served is decorated with streamers, balloons, a sizeable "Happy Birthday" letter-string in colourful letters, the kid's name and age are blue-tacked on the dining-room mirror. Underneath, the table is nicely laid with some flowers and festive serviettes.



### 6. On what other occasions are your family together?

They are mostly happy occasions when we get together with the extended family such as a wedding or the baptism of a new family member. However, we also gather together on

### 3. CELEBRATIONS



#### abc Wordlist

<b>alike</b>	ə'laɪk	egyaránt
<b>astonished</b>	ə'tɒnɪʃt	megdöbrent
<b>attach</b>	ə'tætʃ	társul
<b>be spoilt</b>	spɔɪlt	el van kényeztetve
<b>be unaware of sth</b>	ʌnə'weə əv	fogalma sincs vmiről
<b>beat</b>	bɪ:t	túlszárnyal
<b>blue-tack</b>	'blu:tæk	gyurmaragasztó
<b>brandy</b>	'brændɪ	pálinka
<b>cemetery</b>	'semɪtəri	temető
<b>champagne</b>	ʃæm'peɪn	pezsgő
<b>charity bazaar</b>	'tʃærɪti bæ'zɑ:	jótékonyági vásár
<b>charm</b>	tʃɑ:m	talizmán
<b>cherish</b>	'tʃerɪʃ	féltnve őriz, dédelget
<b>clink glasses</b>	klɪŋk 'gla:sɪz	koccint
<b>commemorate</b>	kə'meməreɪt	megemlékezik
<b>conspiracy</b>	kən'spɪrəsi	összeesküvés
<b>customary</b>	'kʌstəməri	szokásos
<b>declaration</b>	dekle'reɪʃn	kikiáltás
<b>disguised</b>	dɪs'gaɪzd	leplezett
<b>egg-rolling competition</b>	'eg,rɔʊlɪŋ kɒmpə'tɪʃn	tojásgurító verseny
<b>enduring</b>	ɪn'dʒʊərɪŋ	tartós, maradandó
<b>equinox</b>	'i:kwɪnɒks	nap-éj egyenlőség
<b>explicit</b>	ɪk'splɪsɪt	egyértelmű, nyilvánvaló, nyílt
<b>extended family</b>	ɪk'stendɪd 'fæmɪli	a tágabb értelemben vett család
<b>fair</b>	feə	vásár
<b>fancy</b>	'fænsɪ	különleges, luxus, díszes
<b>fertility</b>	fə'tɪlətɪ'	termékenység
<b>festive</b>	'festɪv	ünnepi
<b>fireworks displays</b>	'faɪəwɜ:k s dɪ'spleɪ	tűzijáték
<b>for days on end</b>	fɔ: 'deɪz ən 'end	napokon keresztül
<b>fussy</b>	'fʌsɪ	nagy hűhót szokott csapni
<b>generous</b>	'dʒenərəs	bőkezű, adakozó

### 3. CELEBRATIONS



sizeable	'saɪzəbl	méretes
slavish	'sleɪvɪʃ	szolgai
sparkler	'spɑ:klə	csillagszóró
spectacular	spek'tækjʊlə	látványos
spring radish	'sprɪŋ ,rædɪʃ	hónapos retek
sprinkling	'sprɪŋklɪŋ	locsolkodás
streamer	'stri:mə	szerpentin (bulidekoráció)
surpass	sə'pɑ:s	túlszárnyal
the deceased	ðə di'si:st	az elhunytak
the national anthem	ðə 'næʃnəl 'ænthəm	a nemzeti himnusz
timing	'taɪmɪŋ	időzítés
unique	jʊ'ni:k	különleges, egyedi
wake	weɪk	halotti tor
wreath	rɪ:ð	koszorú
yellow cottage cheese	'jeləʊ ,kɒtɪdʒ tʃi:z	sárga túró
your beloved ones	jɔ: bɪ'lʌvɪd wʌnz	a szeretteid

#### Tasks

#### Reading Comprehension

You are going to read an article about a personal account of Christmas far from Europe. Some phrases have been removed from the text. Choose the right phrases from the list (A-M) to fill the gaps (1-10). There are two extra phrases that you do not need. Write your answers in the boxes below. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

#### My Christmases in Australia

We live in Melbourne Australia, so we don't have a Winter Christmas. It's summer here then **0.** \_\_\_\_\_ for the time of year, we usually celebrate Christmas time with the air conditioner running to keep cool!! Very hard for some people to believe.

My parents came out from England in the late 1950's and so over the years, our Christmases were full of regular English traditions from a very cold climate. Things have changed a bit over the years **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ for the heat and changing times.





### 3. CELEBRATIONS

Now I'm married with my own family and this is a typical Christmas for us: About two weeks before Christmas, I finally decide I should do the Christmas present shopping and it's a mad rush from then till Christmas Eve. Every year I keep saying I will buy gifts **2.** \_\_\_\_\_, but I never do and I think the rush and exhilaration is all a part of that special Christmas spirit.

At the same time, a lot of the people in our area decorate their houses and gardens with lights, animated Santas and other wonderful sights. The nights **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ (remember we are talking about summer here), our family climbs in the car and drives round, windows down, looking **4.** \_\_\_\_\_. Five years ago, we joined in this tradition, by placing 500 lights in a forty foot gum tree in our front yard. No fancy colours or flashing, but the sheer height of it looks great.

We love real trees **5.** \_\_\_\_\_ or a branch in a pot. Decorated by the whole family, it looks nice and welcoming. Presents are piled around it and we keep the animals away from it. The cats do love to try and climb the tree!

On Christmas Eve I do the cooking. Our Christmas dinner will consist of roast turkey, roast potatoes, pumpkin **6.** \_\_\_\_\_ as well as salads, cold ham, cold chicken, king prawns and crayfish (lobster).

Dessert is always my mother's trifle recipe and a pavlova coated with cream, strawberries and passionfruit. Mince Pies, lollies (candies) decorate the table. The actual table is adorned **7.** \_\_\_\_\_, and christmas candles. Christmas Eve is also spent watching the Traditional Carols by Candlelight at the Sydney Myer MusicBowl in Melbourne on the television. For the night we leave chocolate chip cookies and a glass of milk out for Santa.

On Christmas morning, the presents from Santa are opened and then we sit around the tree and share the presents **8.** \_\_\_\_\_.

We have our main Christmas meal at lunchtime. Turkey is served cold as are all the other meats mentioned. However, **9.** \_\_\_\_\_, we always have hot vegetables and gravy accompanying the meal. The weather is varied at Christmas time and I remember one year where it was 40 degrees Celsius (110 degrees Fahrenheit). Another year, it was chilly and there was actually snow in the Alps on Boxing Day. It was the only time **10.** \_\_\_\_\_ it snowing in Victoria at Christmas time. With the climate, it didn't settle though.

([www.thekoala.com/christmas2.htm](http://www.thekoala.com/christmas2.htm))

- A** ~~so unless the weather is extreme~~
- B** we bought for each other
- C** being quite warm
- D** at all the lovely displays
- E** with a festive tablecloth
- F** with a few compensations
- G** so we either use a live one in a tub
- H** way in advance

### 3. CELEBRATIONS



- I** sticking to tradition
- J** decorated from top to bottom
- K** and other hot vegetables
- L** I had ever heard of
- M** with a candlelit dinner at 8

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										

#### Listening Comprehension



In this section you are going to hear about the history of a British spring festival. Your task is to circle the letter of the correct answer (A, B or C). First, you will have some time to study the task, and then we will play the recording. Then, after a short pause, listen to the recording again. At the end, you will have some more time to check your answers. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

#### Pancake Day

- 0.** Pancakes in England are a traditional
  - A** dessert.
  - B** breakfast dish.
  - C** party meal.
- 1.** Pancake Day is celebrated
  - A** before Easter.
  - B** after Easter.
  - C** on a Thursday.
- 2.** On this day people fry pancakes because according to tradition
  - A** they must eat something delicious.
  - B** only pancakes are allowed to be eaten.
  - C** leftover food has to be finished.
- 3.** The festival is celebrated
  - A** with a funny contest.
  - B** with football games.
  - C** in England only.





### 3. CELEBRATIONS

4. The tradition began
- A after Lent.
  - B when a woman went to church smelling of frying fat.
  - B about 500 years ago.
5. Competitors
- A are women only.
  - B must run without dropping the pan.
  - C must go to church on that day.
6. The winner
- A can eat the pancakes.
  - B gets a kiss.
  - C can ring the bell.

