

Lesson 14 – Festivals and Celebrations

Lesson 14. Festivals and Celebrations

Learning Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define what festival is and how it affect our lives.
2. Name different kinds of festivals and celebrations around the world.
3. Talk about the most popular festival in the country.
4. Discuss festivals add structure to our society and its effect on our lives.
5. Explore the Diwali festival in India and in the world.
6. Use narrative tenses to talk about festivals.
7. Use common celebratory phrasal verbs in a sentence.
8. Practice intonation of different types of sentences.

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**Describe the pictures.
Can you name these festivals?**

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In A Nutshell

Festivals are an expressive way to **celebrate** glorious heritage, culture and traditions. Traditional celebrations are some of the core aspects of any culture. They are meant to rejoice special moments and emotions in our lives with our loved ones. They play an important role to add structure to our social lives, and connect us with our families and backgrounds.

There are many types of cultural festivals such as National, Religious and Seasonal. They all serve the purpose of bringing happiness to our lives, and strengthen our sense of community.

Ponder this!

**What is the biggest cultural festival in your country?
Why is celebrating festivals important to people?**

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Can you name these festivals?



1. Patrick's Day, Ireland
2. La Tomatina, Bunol, Spain
3. Oktoberfest, Germany
4. Chinese New Year, China
5. Obon, Japan
6. Masskara Festival, Bacolod, Philippines
7. Mardi Gras, New Orleans, USA
8. Semana Santa, Spain
9. Eid al-Fitr
10. Flower festival, Japan
11. Songkran Water Festival, Thailand
12. Harbin Ice festival, China

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Talk about five most popular festivals that are celebrated in your country.

Festival Name	Origin	Food	Music	Activities
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

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Fill in the blanks with the correct words on the right.

1. Rio has the most famous _____ in the world.
2. When the festival starts, people _____ in the town square
3. Some of the religious _____ in our festivals are very old.
4. Our annual festival lets us show visitors our local _____.
5. In our summer festival it is a _____ to visit our friends.
6. In November I joined a course to learn how to make Christmas _____.
7. Our festivals help us to remember famous _____ events.
8. The festival starts with an opening _____ where people walk through the streets.
9. The dancers in the festival wore traditional _____.
10. You can learn about the _____ of the festival at the local museum.
11. We have four festivals, one in each of the four _____.
12. When it gets dark we set off the _____.
13. We have parties and other _____ throughout the festival.
14. Festivals with a _____ meaning are very important in our country.

1. custom
2. parade
3. decorations
4. carnival
5. celebrations
6. origin
7. fireworks
8. religious
9. season
10. costume
11. historical
12. culture
13. gather
14. ceremonies

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Listening 14.1

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions below.

1. What are the most popular festivals in his country?
2. Why is New year's day the most important festival in his country?
3. Where is the festival celebrated?
4. What do people do to prepare for the festival?
5. Who can join the festival?
6. What do people do in the festival?
7. What is special about the festival?



**How does a festival add structure to our social lives?
How do they connect families and backgrounds?**

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Why is there Diwali & who celebrates it?

Diwali is a holiday that is celebrated by Hindus in India and **abroad**. It is often called the festival of lights. Basically, Diwali is the Hindu New Year and it is a very exciting time for **Hindus**. Normally, this holiday is celebrated in October or November and it falls on a different date each year. In 2009, it was celebrated on October 17th.

The Hindu people have several different traditional ways of celebrating their New Year. The festival of lights can last 3-5 days depending on the **locale** where the people live. There is a lot of preparation that goes into Diwali and families typically spend several weeks cleaning their homes and baking goods in order to welcome the "**Goddess** of wealth" into their lives. It is traditional to make sure that all the windows of the home are opened during this time to ensure that she can enter the homes of **celebrators**.

One of the other traditions of Diwali is to have clay lamps throughout the homes to light up the house. These are used to attract the Goddess of Wealth into the home and **legend** says that she will not enter a home that is not lit up. These clay lamps are burned **constantly** during the festival in homes of Hindus across the world. Much like in the United States, the children in India do not have to go to school during Diwali. They also share gifts with one another and prepare special holiday meals to **commemorate** this event.

Diwali is a time to celebrate all the blessings that people have and it is common for adults and children to adorn new clothes or jewelry during this festival. Just like on the 4th of July in the United States, fireworks are a big part of the Diwali **festival**. The fireworks are a way for the Hindus to **scare away** evil spirits so that only good things can come into their lives and their homes.

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Match the words with their meaning and then complete the table.

1. a different country
2. a female God
3. the religion of most people in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal
4. an area or place, esp. one where something special happens
5. someone who celebrates or recognizes a special event by having a party or some other unique activity
6. a very old story or set of stories from ancient times
7. all the time or often
8. to show honor to the memory of an important person or event in a special way
9. an organized set of special events
10. prevent someone doing something by frightening them

Word or Phrase	Synonym
constantly	
legend	
goddess	
abroad	
commemorate	
locale	
festival	
Hindu	
scare away	
celebrators	

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TRUE FALSE

1. Diwali is a holiday celebrated only in India.
2. Diwali means festival of lights.
3. Diwali is celebrated the same way every where in the country.
4. People clean their homes and bake good to welcome the “Goddess of beauty”.
5. Windows and doors are shut during the celebration of Diwali.
6. The legend says that the Goddess will not enter a home that is not lit up.
7. Fireworks are a big part of the Diwali festival.
8. People share money and gifts to one another to commemorate this event.

Share Your
Thoughts

- 1. Does your country celebrate Diwali?**
- 2. What is the longest festival does your country have?**
- 3. What does most people believe in when they celebrate this festival?**
- 4. Do you have any festivals where people share gifts with one another?**
- 5. Have you ever experienced fireworks display?**

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Narrative tenses are verb **tenses** that are used to talk about the past. You can often find them in stories, textbooks, spoken accounts and in descriptions of past events.

Narrative tenses are **four tenses** that we often use for talking about past events.

The most common of these is the **past simple**.

The other three tenses, the **past continuous**, the **past perfect simple** and the **past perfect continuous**, can help us to say what we want more efficiently.

Past simple

We can use the past simple for actions that started and finished in the past, for example a series of events in someone's life. e.g. *Nelson Mandela **was born** in 1918. He **became** the first black President of South Africa.*

Past continuous

We use the past continuous for background information and to describe a scene or situation that continued for some time. e.g. *At 6 o'clock that evening Dan **was still missing**. Bobby **was feeling** worried.*

Past simple and past continuous

We often use the past simple and past continuous together when one action interrupts another. e.g. *It **was still raining** when Bobby **woke up** the next morning. Dan **was sitting** at the table when she **went** into the kitchen.*

Past simple and past perfect

We can use the past perfect with the past simple together in a sentence to describe an action that happened before another past action. e.g. *Bobby **knew** that Dan **hadn't wanted** to come home but she also knew that **he hadn't had** any other option.*

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Fill the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets. This is a story so you can choose from past simple, past continuous and past perfect tenses.

This _____ (1) (happen) about five years ago. I _____ (2) (come) back home from Turkey where I _____ (3) (be) on holiday with some friends who _____ (4) (rent) a bungalow in the mountains not far from Ankara, the capital.

Anyway, we _____ (5) (sit) in the plane and _____ (6) (just / take) off when there _____ (7) (be) a loud bang from the right hand side of the plane and I could see a lot of smoke coming from one of the engines. Of course, everyone _____ (8) (start) looking around but the plane _____ (9) (carry) on flying normally. And then a few minutes later the pilot _____ (10) (come) on to the PA and said there was a problem with one of the engines and we'd have to return to the airport.

I felt pretty nervous, I can tell you, but I _____ (11) (try) to concentrate on my book, and about ten minutes later we _____ (12) (land) without any problems. We _____ (13) (have) to wait for about an hour and then we got back on the plane. Actually, it was a different plane and I was pretty relieved that it was.

CLUES

1. This refers to the whole story, which is complete.
2. This is the background to the story. The main incident in the story took place before you arrived, so it is incomplete
3. This is background; it happened before the story started
4. This is also background and happened before the story started
5. This was in progress - but not finished - at the time the main events started
6. This happened just before the current time
7. This is complete
8. This is complete before the next part of the story starts
9. This is complete
10. This is complete before the next part of the story starts
11. This is complete
12. This is complete
13. This is complete

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Why Festivals Are Important

1. Festivals act like stress relievers and help us balance our emotions.
2. Nothing brings people together like festivals do.
3. Agriculture, in addition to religion and folklore, has significantly contributed to the tradition of festivals. Many festivals across the planet are associated with the time of harvest.
4. Festivals contribute immensely to feelings of social cohesion.
5. Festivals also stimulate economic activities since they provide employment opportunities to people.
6. Festivals have historically been a great source of entertainment especially before the advent of mass-produced entertainment.



Source: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/188562-why-festivals-are-important>

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Celebration Phrasal Verbs

let your hair down

enjoy yourself and
start to relax

e.g. After a busy week, I can
finally let my hair down.

get together

meet people and spend
time for a social or
special occasion

e.g. I'm going to get together with
some friends at the weekend

dress up

- wear more formal or
smarter clothes
- put on clothes to change
your appearance

e.g. I dressed up as a cowboy
for the party.

juice up

Do something to make a place
or event more lively and exciting

e.g. This party is so dull, let's juice
it up by turning on some music.

flake out

suddenly go to sleep or feel
weak because you are
extremely tired

e.g. After this task, I think I'll
flake out on the sofa.

live it up

spend time in a extremely
enjoyable way

e.g. I don't go out very often,
so I'm going to live it up
tonight.

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Express yourself

1. What kinds of things do people celebrate? (Birth, death, life events, historic events)
2. Why is celebrating these things important to people?
3. Which world festival would you most like to join?
4. What festivals does your town hold? Are they good?
5. Do you think other world festivals will start changing?
6. Talk about your best memory from a holiday.
7. Are there any holidays that you really don't like?
8. Do you think your country should have more, or less, holidays? Why?
9. Do you give gifts on any holidays?
10. What do you think is the most overrated holiday?
11. Do you get together with your family on holidays? If so, do you find it stressful, enjoy it, or both?
12. What are some of your childhood memories of holidays?

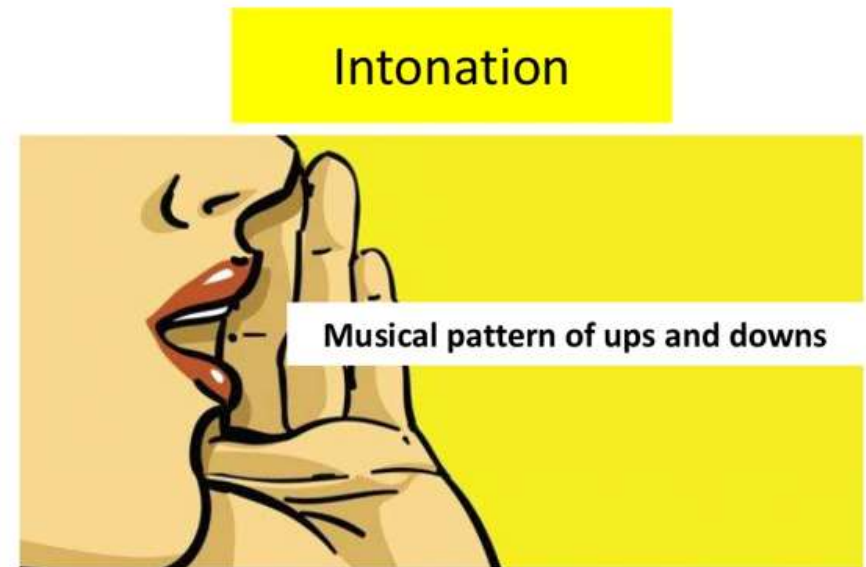
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Intonation falls on statements: “I want to travel to the Bahamas.”

Intonation rises on yes/no questions: “Do you want to go with me?”

Intonation rises then falls on wh- questions: “Where do you want to go?”

1. *Where do you want to go?*
2. *Do you have an idea for a solution?*
3. *Which color do you want for your website background?*
4. *Can they finish the project in time?*
5. *I like cookies.*
6. *She went to the salon.*
7. *Is English important or urgent?*
8. *Why do we need to focus on this?*
9. *My mom visited me yesterday.*
10. *Does she play football on weekend?*



The End