CELEBRATIONS

Vocabulary

A. Find nine words in the word search. Then complete the sentences using the words.

1. We celebrate ________________ in March or April.
2. We celebrate ________________ between the 24th of December and the New Year.
3. Your ________________ is the date you were born.
4. A Bank ________________ is a day when all the shops, offices, factories and schools are closed.
5. People sometimes spend a ________________ away at the beginning of May.
6. In summer, lots of people like to spend time at the ________________
7. ________________ are nice to watch, but they are dangerous to use. It’s best to go to an organized display.
8. A ________________ is a day or a period of celebration.
9. A ________________ is a public procession.
Celebrations in Britain

People in Britain celebrate birthdays, Christmas and Easter like people in most Western countries. But some celebrations are particularly British. Here are a few:

1. Pancake Tuesday

British people celebrate this day by making and eating pancakes. There are also pancake races for children, a race where you have to run and throw a pancake in the air from a frying pan at the same time. Pancake Tuesday is just before Easter.

2. May Day

This day celebrates the end of the cold weather and the beginning of the warm, sunny weather. The first Monday of May is a Bank Holiday, and lots of people go to the beach or spend a weekend away. In some parts of the country, especially in the countryside, people dance around a Maypole.

3. Bonfire Night

‘Remember, remember, the fifth of November’ is a popular refrain. On the 5th of November 400 years ago a group of people tried to blow up the English parliament, but they were caught before they could carry out their plan. People all around Britain today make big fires and burn a sort of scarecrow that represents Guy Fawkes, the leader of the conspiracy. There are also firework displays to watch and baked potatoes or warm soup to eat.
4. Notting Hill Carnival
The Notting Hill Carnival is a festival with reggae music, colourful carnival parades and typical food and drink from the Caribbean. It takes place in London, in an area called Notting Hill, at the end of summer.

C. Match these pictures to each paragraph.

D. Answer the questions.

1. Which celebration takes place in the winter?
2. Which three paragraphs mention food?
3. Which celebration has some kind of sport?
4. Which celebration is a national holiday?
5. Which celebration commemorates a historical event?
Grammar

PAST SIMPLE/PRESENT PERFECT

A. Complete the sentences using the past simple of the verb in brackets.

1. We _____________ my birthday with a big party. (celebrate)
2. They _____________ party games at the party. (play)
3. It _____________ on Bonfire Night last year. (rain)
4. We _____________ the car and parked outside the school. (stop)
5. I _____________ some eggs, flour and milk to make pancakes. (buy)
6. We _____________ the train to London. (catch)
7. They _____________ all the tickets for the May Day party. (sell)
8. She _____________ a sandwich for lunch. (have)

B. Rewrite these sentences as yes/no questions and then as negative sentences.

Example:
She came to the party. Did she come to the party? She didn’t come to the party.

1. They had a drink.  ___________________________  ___________________________
2. He woke up early.  ___________________________  ___________________________
3. She won the race.  ___________________________  ___________________________
4. They walked to school.  ___________________________  ___________________________

C. Write sentences using the prompts.

1. What time / you / arrive at the party?
2. We / not go / to the firework display.
3. You / go / to the Christmas party?
4. What / you / do / last night?
5. You / eat / pancakes yesterday?
6. We / make / 100 pancakes / on Pancake Tuesday.
7. A group of people / try / to blow up Parliament.
8. When / they / try/ to blow up Parliament?
A. You are going to watch a video of a man making American pancakes. Circle the correct words in the summary.

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLDXOVWhw2E&feature=fvwrel

How to make pancakes

To make pancakes for (1) one person / two people you need:

¾ of a cup of flour, (2) one and a half teaspoons / half a teaspoon of sugar, (3) ¼ / ½ a teaspoon of salt, (4) 1 egg / 2 eggs, ½ a cup of milk, (5) ½ / 1 tablespoon of oil.

You can also add a teaspoon of vanilla essence and (6) 2 / 3 teaspoons of baking powder.

cook the first side for (7) 2 to 5 / 3 to 5 minutes and then cook the other side for a further 2 minutes.

This cook eats pancakes once a week but he plays squash (8) 3 / 4 times a week so he doesn’t get fat!
A. Write a short description of a celebration in your town, city or region. Write 20 to 30 words for each paragraph.

Make notes

1. What is the name of the celebration, where and when does it take place?
2. What do people do in this celebration?
3. What do people eat and drink?
4. Why go to this celebration? (Make recommendations for tourists)

Useful phrases:

I’m going to write about…
It takes place in… (the city centre, an area of my town…)
It lasts… (all day, for a week…)
Typical things to eat/drink are…
You can see… (concerts, clowns…)
Another thing you can do is…
You will have a good time because…

Linking words:

as well as that
also
too

Examples:
You can see concerts and as well as that you can go to the craft market.
You can see concerts and you can also go to the craft market.
You can see concerts and you can go to the craft market too.
Speaking

A. Talk about these questions with a partner:

Make notes

1. How do you usually celebrate your birthday?
2. How do you and your family celebrate Christmas?
3. What is your favourite celebration of the year?
4. What, in your opinion, is the most famous festival in your country?
5. What, in your opinion, is the most famous festival in the world?
6. Do you think that people in your country celebrate more than in other countries?

B. Speak with a partner about these pictures.
1. What are these people celebrating? Give reasons.
2. Have you been to any celebrations like these? Which ones?
3. Which celebration, in your opinion, looks the most fun?
4. Take turns to describe one of the pictures. Your partner will try to guess which picture you are describing.
ANSWERS

Vocabulary

A

1. Easter
2. Christmas
3. birthday
4. holiday
5. weekend
6. beach
7. fireworks
8. festival
9. parade

Reading

B

Frying pan, bank holiday, firework display, reggae music

C

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 1
D

1. Bonfire night
2. Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4
3. Pancake Day
4. May Day
5. Bonfire Night

Grammar

A

1. celebrated
2. played
3. rained
4. stopped
5. bought
6. caught
7. sold
8. had

B

1. Did they have a drink? They didn’t have a drink.
2. Did he wake up early? He didn’t wake up early.
3. Did she win the race? She didn’t win the race.
4. Did they walk to school? They didn’t walk to school.
C

1. What time did you arrive at the party?
2. We didn’t go to the firework display.
3. Did you go to the Christmas party?
4. What did you do last night?
5. Did you eat pancakes yesterday?
6. We made 100 pancakes on Tuesday.
7. A group of people tried to blow up Parliament.
8. When did they try to blow up Parliament?

Listening

A

1. one person
2. one and a half teaspoon
3. 1/4
4. 1 egg
5. ½
6. 2
7. 3 to 5
8. 4
Writing

A

Students’ own answers.

Speaking

A

Students’ own answers

B

Students’ own answers