Welcome to Spotlight

I’m Liz Waid and I’m Joshua Leo. Spotlight uses a special English method of broadcasting. It is easier for people to understand. No matter where in the world they live.

Today’s spotlight is on fireworks.

Above you, around you, to the side fire and loud booming sound surround you. Looking up you see shape like flowers falling from the sky in a shower of light. People all around you are cheering and laughing. It is a fireworks show. People all over the world enjoy this amazing light shows for many different reasons.

No one knows exactly how fireworks were invented but most experts agree that the inventor came from China. More than 2 thousand years ago, Chinese people began to use green bamboo in religious celebrations. This fast growing tree traps air inside it. People threw pieces of green bamboo on to a fire. When the bamboo burned it exploded make a loud sound. People believed that the loud sound made evil spirits afraid. Soon, people used green bamboo in marriage celebration and other happy events. But soon, something new would take the place of green bamboo. Inventors discovered gunpowder. Gunpowder was a mixture of 3 substances: potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal. When these 3 things mixed together, they exploded with a bright light and a big sound. And gunpowder was much louder than the simple bamboo. Soon it replaced bamboo in celebrations. Overtime this technology spread to other parts of the world too. Fireworks were popular in every place they went. Countries use them in many celebrations, military victories, religious festivals and the crowning of kings and queens. Today, people use fireworks for many of the same reasons.

In the past, people made fireworks simple by wrapping gun powder in paper and lighting it on fire. But today, making fireworks has become a real science. Now, it takes more work. The experts who make fireworks are called pyro technicians. First, pyrotechnicians mix gunpowder with different chemicals. The chemicals create the different colors. For example, sodium creates the color yellow. Copper creates the color blue. Barium makes green and aluminum makes white. Adding charcoal gives the fireworks a fiery tail as it flies into the air.

Pyrotechnicians make small ball of this chemical and gunpowder mixture. The balls are called stars. Then the stars go into shells but this shows do not come from the ocean. The show is a paper container. The shape of the container makes the shape of the fireworks. For example, around show will make a firework that look like a circle. A large show can hold up to 1 hundred stars. There is also an extra amount of gunpowder at the bottom of the show. The pyro technicians then ask a few to the bottom of the shell. In simple fireworks the fusel is like a small thin piece of rope. To light the firework, the pyro technicians, light the fuse on fire. The fire travels up the fuse until it reaches the shell and then

The gunpowder launches the shell high into the air then when the fire reaches the stars in the center of the shell the firework explodes. It creates a wonderful show and one thing is for sure people everywhere love a fireworks show. Many countries use fireworks to celebrate

National holidays. In the United States Independence Day is celebrated on July four. And almost community creates a fireworks show. It is tradition for many families to go see the show. This has been true since 1777 the second Independence Day.

In Britain, people use fireworks to celebrate something different. On November 5, 1605 a group man planned to bomb the British Council of Parliament. The bomb did not explode and the man was caught. Today on November 5 people celebrate the failure of plan communities like large fires and set off fireworks. It is called Guide Force Day for one of the man. Children make guys force man to burn in the fire.

Indian people around the world use fireworks to celebrate festival of life. This festival is called Diwali or Deepervali. It is one of the most important Hindu festivals. Hindu believes that on this day, the evil spirit of darkness and dirt was destroyed. It is the day that spiritual light came to the Earth and destroy darkness. To celebrate, Hindu light lamps and fireworks.

Today China is the largest maker and exporter of fireworks in the world. And fireworks is an important part of many Chinese celebrations. This is particularly true at Chinese New Year. Chinese people use fireworks to scare away ghosts and evil spirits. They believe the fireworks bring the people good luck.

Many countries use fireworks to celebrate the New Year. Some countries put on a big show lasting for an hour. Other countries has smaller show. For example, in Russia, many people gather in the famous Red Square to celebrate the New Year together instead of the city providing a fireworks show. People bring their own fireworks. Rather than coming to see a fireworks show the people just come to be together and celebrate.

That is what is so great about fireworks. They bring people together. People of all different races religions and beliefs sit together under one sky under the color of fireworks. They celebrate together. Yes the most wonderful thing about fireworks is not how loud they are, or how big and colorful they are or how they are made. The most wonderful thing about fireworks is the way they bring everyone together.

But there are some important things to remember with fireworks. They are a wonderful part of many celebration, but they can be very dangerous. People often forget that fireworks are explosive like a very small bomb. They can cause serious burn to people setting them and people watching the show. In extreme cases. Fireworks can blind a person or destroy a person’s hand or foot. Fireworks can also damage the local environment. In dry area they can cause serious fire. For these reasons authorities have banned fireworks in some countries. And anyone using fireworks should be very careful and obey local laws. Doing these things will create a fun and safe celebration.

The writer of today program was Rebecca Skipper and Chrisney Vanalica. The producer was Liz Waid. The voices you heard were from the United States. Computer User can here this program, read our scripts and see our wordlist on our website at [www.radioenglish.net](http://www.radioenglish.net/)

This program is called fireworks a global celebration. If you have a comment or question for Spotlight please contact us. Our email address is radio@radioenglish.net. Or you can leave a comment of this script page for this program on our website. We hope you can join us again for the next Spotlight program. Goodbye.