

COMMUNICATION

# Talking about celebrations

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_2083X

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can compare ways of celebrating birthdays in different countries with my own.
- I can explain other major celebrations in my country and share my thoughts on them.



## Warm-up

**Do you like celebrating your birthday? Why or why not?**



**What are some milestones people in your country celebrate?**



# Pre-teaching vocabulary

Match the words on the left to their definition.

1

**to smear**

**a**

to suddenly attack someone after hiding and waiting for them

2

**to ambush**

**b**

to spread something over a surface

3

**sprinkles**

**c**

to believe something to be a certain way

4

**to come across as**

**d**

doing something that gives people a feeling or opinion about you

5

**to consider**

**e**

small pieces of sugar or chocolate used as decoration on top of cakes

# Birthday traditions from around the world

Read about these **birthday traditions** from around the world and **match them with one of the countries in the parentheses** below!

1. In most parts of this country, you should open a present in front of the person who gave it to you right away. If you wait, you may come across as being rude.
2. If you wish someone a happy birthday before their birthday in this country, they could get angry at you. It's considered bad luck!
3. In parts of this country when it's your birthday, a friend or family member may ambush you and smear some butter on your nose. This unusual tradition is supposed to prevent bad luck!
4. In this country, you would probably enjoy some tasty fairy bread on your birthday—a slice of white bread spread with butter and covered in a lot of colourful sprinkles.
5. In this country, all birthdays are commonly celebrated on the same day—New Year's Day!

**(Canada, Italy, Vietnam, Australia, Germany)**

1. Were you surprised by any of the traditions?
2. Would you like to adopt any of the traditions in the text?



## Discuss

Choose **one pink** and **one yellow** question to answer. **Discuss** as a class or in breakout rooms.

**What do you typically eat on your birthday?**

**What is rude to do on someone's birthday in your country?**

**Are there any birthday traditions in your culture that are supposed to prevent bad luck?**

**Are there any birthday traditions in your family or close circle of friends?**



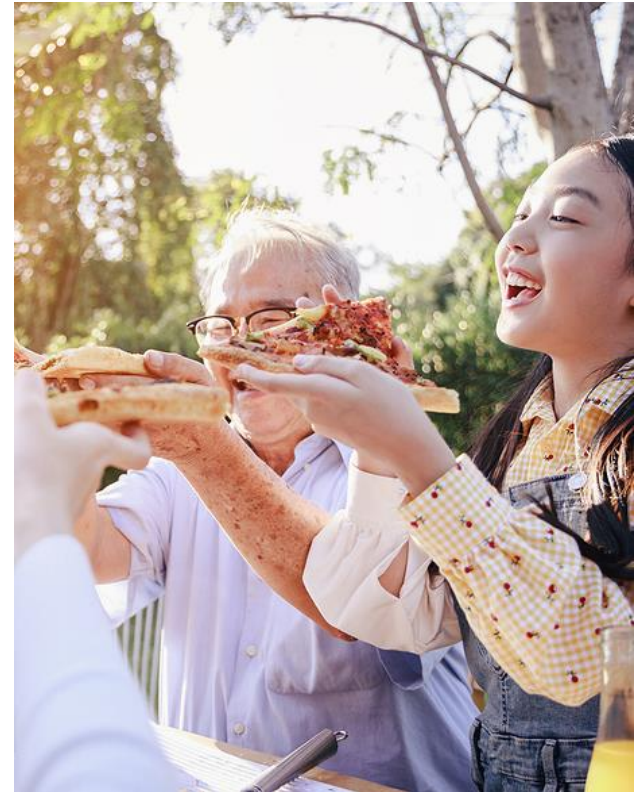


## Discuss

Share your answer to the question below with the rest of the class.

**What is the most important birthday in your country?**

**Why do you think so?**



# Prepositions of time

Read the sentences below and then answer the questions in the blue box.

My birthday is **on** 9 December.

We usually celebrate **in** summer.

The party begins **at** 8 p.m.

- Which preposition indicates an **exact** or **specific** time?
- Which preposition indicates a **specific date** or **day**?
- Which preposition indicates an **indefinite** and **unspecific time** of months, seasons, years, centuries, etc.?







# Practise using *at*, *in*, and *on*

Complete these sentences using the correct preposition.

1 Bastille Day is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ 14 July.

a. at

b. in

c. on

2 In New Zealand, Labour Day is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ October.

a. at

b. in

c. on

3 The wedding ceremony begins \_\_\_\_\_ noon.

a. at

b. in

c. on

4 If you live in Australia, Christmas is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ summer.

a. at

b. in

c. on

5 My birthday is \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday.

a. at

b. in

c. on



# Talking about celebrations

**Read** and **answer** the questions below. **Share your answers** with the rest of the class.

**What are some important celebrations in your country?**

When do these celebrations occur?

Where do you usually celebrate them?

What happens during these celebrations?



# How are weddings celebrated in your country?

Answer the questions about wedding ceremonies using the **quantifiers** in the blue box.

1 What kind of food is commonly served?

2 At what age do people in your culture typically get married?

3 What can bring bad luck at a wedding?

4 What do people getting married in your culture promise each other?

5 In your culture, do you have to invite people you don't like to a wedding?



some  
a lot of  
most  
all

# Time to talk!

Take turns choosing a question below and ask a classmate to find out more about them.



- Are you looking forward to getting older? Why or why not?
- What kinds of gifts are traditionally given at birthdays in your country?
- Are there any celebrations that you liked more as a child than you do today?
- Are there any celebrations that you like more as an adult than you did as a child?
- Are there any traditions that you think people from outside your country might find surprising?
- What was the nicest wedding you have ever been to?



# End of the lesson

Idiom

***The life of the party!***

**Meaning:** Someone who is the liveliest or most entertaining person at a party.

**Example:** He's the life of the party!





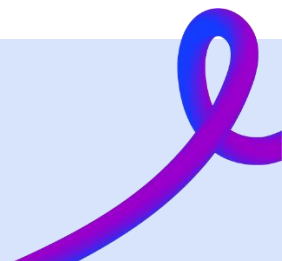
# Additional practice



# Complete the sentences

Use **at**, **in** and **on** to complete the sentences

- 1 My birthday party will start \_\_\_\_\_ 3pm \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ December, Christians celebrate Christmas Day \_\_\_\_\_ the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month.
- 3 Our wedding is \_\_\_\_\_ six months.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ your birthday, it is common in most cultures to celebrate with special food.
- 5 I won't be in the city \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday morning, but I will see you \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon.





# Discussing celebrations

**Choose one** of the events below. **Describe how you celebrate** in your culture. Use the **questions in the box** to help you. Your teacher will **ask questions** about your event.



wedding



graduation



birthday  
party



religious  
festival



other

*We celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_*

*Every year, in \_\_\_\_\_, we  
\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_*

- Who?
- How many people?
- Describe the food and drink
- Music or entertainment
- Was this one day or does it happen often?
- Where?
- Describe the clothes



# Categorise the words

Make sentences using the quantifiers **some** and **a lot of** to describe a **typical birthday celebration in your culture**. Ask each other questions to find out more.



1

days of  
preparation

2

friends

3

amount of  
money

4

hours of  
celebration

5

entertainment

6

family

7

types of food

8

types of drink

**some**

**a lot of**



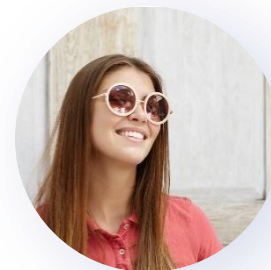
# Discuss



**Hamsa**

**I love  
birthday  
parties!**

**I hate  
birthday  
parties!**



**Jodie**

Who do you agree  
with?

Why do you think  
they have different  
opinions?

Could there be  
cultural reasons why  
they think  
differently?

Explain why you  
agree with Hamsa  
or Jodie.



# Answer key

**P.4:** 1. (b.) 2. (a.) 3. (e.) 4. (d.) 5. (c.)

**P.5:** 1.) Italy 2.) Germany 3.) Canada 4.) Australia 5.) Vietnam

**P.8:** at – indicates an exact or specific time; on – indicates a specific date or day; in – indicates an indefinite and unspecific time

**P.9:** 1.) on 2.) in 3.) at 4.) in 5.) on

**P. 16:** 1.) at, on; 2.) In, on; 3.) in; 4.) on; 5.) on, in





# Summary

## Different celebrations

- People all over the world celebrate in a lot of different ways
- Most cultures celebrate birthdays
- Some birthdays are particularly important to some cultures and religions

## Prepositions of time

- at – an exact or specific time
- on – a specific date or day
- in – an unspecific time (months, seasons, years etc.)

## Prepositions of time examples

- My birthday is **on** 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- I will graduate **in** July.
- The party begins **at** 8pm.

## Quantifiers

- Quantifier tell us how much of something there is
- Some people have small weddings in the UK but a lot of people have big ceremonies
- Most people in the UK celebrate Christmas and almost all of the population celebrates their birthday



# Vocabulary

to smear

to ambush

to come across as

to be considered

sprinkles

at

in

on

some

a lot

most

all

