

New Year, New Hope

Level: B1/B2

Warm – up

Ex.1. What can you see in the photos? Do you know where the photos were taken?



Source: nycnewyers.com



source: <https://blog.radissonblu.com/>



source: claynewsnetwork.com



source: avivaindia.com



source: wsj.com

Ex.2. Answer the questions:

- a) Why do people celebrate New Year's Eve?
- b) Do all cultures celebrate New Year's Eve at the same time?
- c) Have you heard about any interesting traditions connected with New Year's celebrations?
- d) How do you usually celebrate New Year's Eve?
- e) Do you make New Year's resolutions? Why/Why not? What are the most popular ones?

Ex.3. You are going to watch a video about the origins of New Year's Eve celebrations. Answer the questions after watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA1ObaFVvLc>



- a) When did people celebrate New Year's Eve in the past?
- b) Who moved celebrations of NYE to 1st January and why?
- c) When was the Gregorian calendar adopted?
- d) Can you name a few countries that still follow the lunar calendar? When do they celebrate NYE?
- e) When did people start to celebrate NYE at Times Square? What is so special about it?

Ex.4.

a) Read the text about New Year's Eve traditions.

The text was adapted from <https://greenglobaltravel.com/celebrate-new-year-traditions-around-the-world>

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS FOR GOOD LUCK

Did you know that more people celebrate New Years around the world than any other holiday? But, of course, that doesn't mean that we all celebrate it in the same way. How I celebrate the New Year— watching the **NYC** countdown on television, kissing at midnight, champagne toasts, and fireworks— may be relatively commonplace in the United States. But New Year customs vary widely in different cultures around the world.

Each country seems to have its own unique New Years celebrations, with different customs for ensuring health, wealth, happiness, and luck in the coming year.

As we learn more about the various New Years celebrations around the world, we may discover strange cultural twists that seem foreign to us. But these unique variations in the way people celebrate the New Year are part of what makes exploring the world so great.

So let's take a look at some of the more interesting New Year traditions around the world, and see how people will be ringing in the next year. Who knows? Maybe we can find something fun along the way to adopt into our own New Year celebrations.

One of my favorite things about New Year's good luck rituals is that not all of them seem completely sane. Many of the traditions we've already learned about on this list probably seem a bit off-the-wall. Here are a few that seemingly come out of nowhere, but remain integral pieces of some countries' annual New Year customs.

Colombia: One of Colombians' favorite ways to celebrate the New Year is to carry an empty suitcase around the block. The tradition is meant to bring celebrants a year of travel (which hopefully will involve a little more packing).

Denmark: Many of the world's New Year's traditions revolve around the stroke of midnight: fireworks blasting off, the ball dropping, kissing a loved one, toasting with champagne, etc. In Denmark, people jump off of their chairs in unison at midnight. This symbolizes jumping forward into the new year and leaving bad things behind.

Belgium: In Belgium, Walloon and Flemish farmers rise early on New Year's Day and promptly head out the stables to wish the cows (and other domesticated animals) a happy New Year. Though the origins of this tradition are unknown, the same thing is also practiced in Romania.

Finland: Going to a fortune-teller can either be a fun or harrowing experience. But one Nordic New Year tradition involves reading the future for yourself. Finnish people melt tin horseshoes, pour the molten metal into cold water, and use the resulting solid to gain insight into the coming year. Its shape and shadow supposedly tell all, and a broken piece of tin is considered a sure sign of bad luck.

Japan: In Japan, *Joya no Kane* is a Buddhist ritual that takes place at midnight on New Year's Eve. It involves ringing a bell exactly 108 times. Buddhists believe that we humans are entrapped by 108 different desires that keep us suffering. The chimes symbolize purification from the accumulation of these passions over the previous year.

Chile: In the small town of Tulca, Chile, it is tradition to spend the last night of the year at a sleepover at the cemetery. Locals believe that the souls of dearly departed friends and family come to hang around on the night of New Year's Eve. So they make fires, bring food and drink, and decorate their loved ones' graves for some ghostly quality time.

Ecuador: In Ecuador, *los años viejos* (the old years) is a beloved part of how to celebrate the New Year. People construct large scarecrows of those they don't like and set them alight at midnight in order to burn away the ills of last year. Building the scarecrow is a family activity. While it's mostly done for fun and laughs, controlling the bevy of fires is sometimes a serious undertaking.

Panama: Panama has a similar "viejo" tradition to the one in Ecuador. Only here the effigies are called *muñecos*. Rather than simply setting them on fire, the dolls are typically stuffed with fireworks in order to really get the festivities cranking.

Turkey: In Turkey, wearing red underwear at midnight on New Year's Eve is crucial to bring good luck in the coming year. For that matter, this tradition is also observed in

other countries, including Italy, Spain, and Mexico. Red is traditionally a lucky color at this time of year. Who knows how the underwear in particular became important?

Brazil: Taking the idea of lucky New Year's underpants even further, in Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela, the color of underwear helps to determine the wearer's specific successes for next year. Red brings love, yellow brings money, green brings luck, and so on. Local markets will be festooned with colored underpants leading up to the New Year.

b) Which tradition surprised you the most? Have you heard about other strange traditions that weren't mentioned in the text?

c) Match the words with definitions.

1. sane
2. off-the-wall
3. to remain
4. a commonplace
5. to vary
6. to ensure
7. to blast off
8. in unison
9. promptly
10. harrowing
11. chimes
12. a bevy
13. an effigy
14. festooned

- a) dźwięk dzwonów, dzwonek w telefonie
- b) pozostawać
- c) rozsądny, przy zdrowych zmysłach
- d) obwieszony (np. ozdobami)
- e) jednogłośnie
- f) podobizna
- g) zwariowany, dziwny
- h) różnić się
- i) banał, powszechny, pospolity
- j) odpalać (np. raketę)
- k) zapewniać
- l) straszny, przerażający
- m) gromada
- n) natychmiast, bezzwłocznie

Ex.5. Fill in the gaps with appropriate words in correct forms.

remain off-the-wall sane commonplace vary chimes promptly
ensure harrowing effigy

- a) The article claimed that not all New Year's Eve traditions are _____ .
- b) In fact a lot of these traditions are quite _____ - they have really no sense.
- c) Spending New Year's Eve outside among hundreds of people may be a _____ experience.
- d) Hundreds or even thousands of police officers have to be involved in order to _____ safety for celebrating people.
- e) Customs _____ in different cultures what makes travelling even more exciting.
- f) Making New Year's Eve resolutions sounds like a _____ but it can actually be helpful for some people.
- g) It would be nice to _____ sober at least till midnight.
- h) I would _____ board a plane if I had an opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve in Brazil.
- i) A lot of people have really silly _____ in their phones.
- j) In Equador and Panama people make _____ of the people they don't like and set them alight at midnight. (ouch ;-)

Extra Activity

You are going to watch a video „New Year’s resolutions with F.R.I.E.N.D.S”

Make a list of their resolutions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UV7fZd7gjJ8>



Ross: _____

Joey: _____

Rachel: _____

Phoebe: _____

Chandler: _____

What resolution should Monica have made?:
