

# What do you do at New Year?

## 1 Warm Up: Work with a partner.

- What did you do on New Year's Eve?

## 2 Reading

I usually <sup>1</sup>..... New Year with friends. Christmas is all about family, but New Year is about spending time with my mates.

New Year's Eve isn't a <sup>2</sup>..... holiday, so I have to work until around 5pm. In the evening, I'll meet some friends and we go to the pub and count down the New Year.



Ben - London



Keiko - Tokyo

I always go back to my hometown at New Year and stay with my parents. On New Year's Eve, we watch a singing <sup>3</sup>..... on TV called 'Kohaku'. Then, just before midnight, we go to the local temple to hear the <sup>4</sup>.....

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we eat 'osechi'. It's <sup>5</sup>..... New Year food. I love it!

The New Year fireworks in Sydney are famous around the world.

I usually watch the fireworks with some old school friends. It gets very crowded, but the <sup>6</sup>..... is fantastic.

Last year, my parents took me on a harbor cruise near the Opera House. We had a bird's eye view of the event. It was expensive (my parents tell me) but it was definitely worth it!



Isabel - Sydney

### Missing Words

traditional atmosphere public competition celebrate bell

### 3 Check! What do you remember from the reading?

1. Which person eats traditional food at New Year? .....

2. Who usually works on New Year's

Eve? .....

### 4 Vocabulary Building: Fill in the spaces.

1. Benjamin goes back to his ..... once or twice a year.

2. You can get a ..... of the city from the top floor.

3. For me, summer holidays are ..... going to the beach!

4. I never fly business class, because I don't think it's .....

5. Last week, Claire met up with some .....

bird's eye view

worth it

old school friends

hometown

all about

### 5 Using the Vocabulary: Ask and answer the questions.

1. Where is the best place to **get a bird's eye view** of your country's capital city?

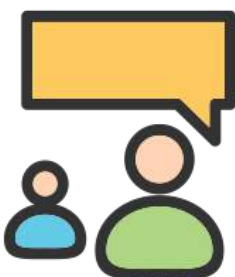
2. Do you often meet up with **old school friends**?

3. Can you tell your partner about something that is expensive, but **worth it**?

4. For you, is New Year **all about** family, friends or something else?

5. Are **hometowns** important in your culture, or do people move house a lot?

### 6 Discussion: Work with a partner or in small groups.



> Do you always look forward to New Year?

> Do people eat specific food at New Year in your country?

> Are there fireworks in the cities at New Year? Have you ever been?

> Is a different time of year more important than New Year for you?

# What do you do at New Year? Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structures:</b>	N/A (Reading, Speaking, Vocabulary)
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	General / New Year
<b>Level:</b>	Lower-Intermediate and above
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes +
<b>Preparation:</b>	Make one copy for each student

## Suggested Teaching Method:

**Get your students speaking about New Year with this mini-reading and discussion worksheet.**

- 1 Distribute one set of worksheets to each student. Students can ask a partner the opening question. Elicit feedback. Don't spend too long here, as there are discussion questions on New Year at the end of the worksheet.
- 2 Direct your students' attention to the words beneath the reading passage.  
  
Students should work alone, and read the text at a brisk pace, filling in the spaces. Encourage them to underline any parts that are unclear, and move on, rather than consult dictionaries.  
  
Students can check their answers with a partner. Go through the answers with the group.
- 3 Students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.
- 4 Again, students can work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group. Check that your students understand the meaning of the expressions. You may need to confirm that 'old school friends' means friends you were at school with (who are not necessarily old). 'It's all about' refers to something being the most important factor.
- 5 This exercise gives your students the opportunity to personalize the language. Assign new pairs or groups of three. Have students read through the questions before beginning. Answer any vocabulary questions.  
  
Students can discuss the topics in their groups. Monitor and make notes. Encourage students to use the language in bold in their answers.  
  
You could set these questions as homework. Have students write a sentence or two for each answer.
- 6 Students can discuss the topics in their groups. Monitor and make notes. Encourage students to use the language in bold in their answers.  
  
Reassign groups. Students should again read all the questions first, before beginning the discussion.  
  
Encourage eye contact and follow-up questions.  
  
While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, ask a few of the questions yourself, and go through any points of English you made a note of while monitoring.

## Answer Key (Other answers may be possible.)

- ②
1. celebrate
  2. public
  3. competition
  4. bell
  5. traditional
  6. atmosphere

- ③
1. Keiko
  2. Ben
  3. Keiko
  4. Isabel

- ④
1. Benjamin goes back to his **hometown** once or twice a year.
  2. You can get a **bird's eye view** of the city from the top floor.
  3. For me, summer holidays are **all about** going to the beach!
  4. I never fly business class, because I don't think it's **worth it**.
  5. Last week, Claire met up with some **old school friends**.