

NEW YEAR'S DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/new_years_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

New Year's Day is, of course, the first day of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around the world. It is a time when families get together and celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans for the rest of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to lose weight, get fit, stop smoking, study English every day or save lots of money. I think most people are serious about these plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the end of the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all over again and people make the same resolutions again. I guess people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.

One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look back at the previous year. They are like highlights shows of the news. These always remind me how lucky I am because a lot of the news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back at the lives of people who died that year. Hmm... That all sounds a bit depressing really. But then there are happier things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is lists. The top ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new English words of the year. Previous winners of this are the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. It is a national holiday | a. called New Year resolutions |
| 2. It is a time when families get | b. resolutions again |
| 3. These plans are | c. together and celebrate |
| 4. forget about them before | d. at the same time |
| 5. people make the same | e. the end of the week |
| 6. they also break their resolutions | f. in most countries |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. TV programmes that look | a. a bit depressing |
| 2. These always remind me how | b. movies of the year |
| 3. ...natural disasters, plane crashes and | c. lucky I am |
| 4. That all sounds | d. back at the previous year |
| 5. The top ten | e. ten new English words |
| 6. a list for the top | f. other terrible things |

LISTENING GAP FILL

New Year's Day _____ first day of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around the world. It is a time when families _____ celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans for the rest of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide _____ fit, stop smoking, study English every day or save lots of money. I think most people are _____ plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the end of the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day _____ people make the same resolutions again. I guess people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess _____ resolutions at the same time.

One _____ New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look back at the previous year. They are like highlights shows of the news. These always _____ lucky I am because a lot of the news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and _____. The shows also look back at the lives of people who died that year. Hmm... That _____ depressing really. But then there are happier things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is lists. The _____ the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new English words of the year. Previous _____ the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

New Year's Day is, of _____, the first day of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around the world. It is a time when families get _____ and celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans for the _____ of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to _____ weight, get fit, stop smoking, study English every day or save _____ of money. I think most people are serious about these plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the _____ of the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all _____ again and people make the same resolutions again. I guess people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess they also _____ their resolutions at the same time.

lots
rest
over
end
lose
course
break
together

One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look _____ at the previous year. They are like highlights _____ of the news. These always remind me how lucky I am because a lot of the news is about wars, _____, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back at the lives of people who _____ that year. Hmm... That all sounds a _____ depressing really. But then there are happier things, like the _____ sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is _____. The top ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new English words of the year. Previous _____ of this are the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.

bit
shows
lists
back
died
winners
famines
top

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

New Year's Day is, of *cause / course*, the first day of the year. It is a national holiday in *most / much* countries around the world. It is a time when families get together and celebrate *within / with* a meal. Many people make new plans for the *rest / rested* of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to lose weight, *get / got* fit, stop smoking, study English every day or save lots of money. I think most people are serious *by / about* these plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the end *for / of* the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all over again and people make the same resolutions again. I *guest / guess* people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.

One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look *forward / back* at the previous year. They are like highlights *shows / showed* of the news. These always remind me how *lucky / unlucky* I am because a lot of the news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back at the *live / lives* of people who died that year. Hmm... That all sounds a *bit / bite* depressing really. But then there are happier things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is *lasts / lists*. The top ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is *even / ever* a list for the top ten new English words of the year. Previous *winnners / winnings* of this are the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

New Year's Day is, of course, the first (1) _____ of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around the world. It is a (2) _____ when families get together and celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans (3) _____ the rest of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to lose weight, get (4) _____, stop smoking, study English every day or save lots of money. I think most people are serious about these plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the end of the (5) _____. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all over again and people make the same resolutions again. I (6) _____ people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.

One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that (7) _____ back at the previous year. They are like highlights shows of the news. These always (8) _____ me how lucky I am because a lot of the news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back at the (9) _____ of people who died that year. Hmmm... That all sounds a bit depressing really. But then there are (10) _____ things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is lists. The top ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements (11) _____ the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new English words of the year. Previous (12) _____ of this are the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) daily | (b) daytime | (c) days | (d) day |
| 2. | (a) timely | (b) time | (c) times | (d) timing |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) with | (d) by |
| 4. | (a) fitness | (b) fitting | (c) fit | (d) fittest |
| 5. | (a) weekly | (b) week | (c) weak | (d) weeks |
| 6. | (a) guess | (b) guesses | (c) guessing | (d) guest |
| 7. | (a) look | (b) looked | (c) looks | (d) looking |
| 8. | (a) reminder | (b) remind | (c) remainder | (d) reminding |
| 9. | (a) live | (b) living | (c) lives | (d) lived |
| 10. | (a) happiness | (b) happiest | (c) happily | (d) happier |
| 11. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) with | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) winner | (b) wins | (c) winners | (d) winning |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. families get together and tceeebrla
2. People decide to lose ieghwt
3. most people are souersi
4. fergot about them
5. it's New Year's Day all over aaign
6. arkeb their resolutions

Paragraph 2

7. look back at the ruiospev year
8. These always irndme me how lucky I am
9. other ielretrb things
10. a bit depressing lyelra
11. the ten best topnisgr achievements
12. Previous wsinner

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look back at the previous
- () year. They are like highlights shows of the news. These always remind me how lucky I am because a lot of the
- () ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new
- (**1**) New Year's Day is, of course, the first day of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around
- () English words of the year. Previous winners of this are the words 'blog' and 'podcast'.
- () about them before the end of the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all over
- () news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back
- () of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.
- () of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to lose weight, get fit, stop smoking, study English
- () every day or save lots of money. I think most people are serious about these plans on January 1st, but then forget
- () again and people make the same resolutions again. I guess people all around the world make the same kinds
- () at the lives of people who died that year. Hmm... That all sounds a bit depressing really. But then there are happier
- () things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is lists. The top
- () the world. It is a time when families get together and celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans for the rest

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. in holiday national a is It countries most

2. and together get families meal a with celebrate

3. to People lose decide weight

4. plans are I serious think about most these people

5. the same kinds of plans people all around the world make

6. previous look year back TV at programmes the that

7. I lucky how me remind always These am

8. a depressing That sounds bit really all

9. is thing on Day Another happens Year's lists that New

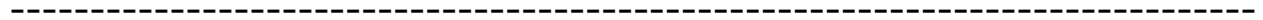
10. the for list a even is There words English new ten top

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE NEW YEAR'S DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about New Year's Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about New Year's Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about New Year's Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about New Year's Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.