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.
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. Hmmm... 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. Hmmm… 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.

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. Hmmm… 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’.
NEW YEAR’S DAY

**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. Hmmm… 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 *winners / 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 *tceebra*

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*
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 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. 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 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 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’.

About them before the end of the week. Then one year later, it’s New Year’s Day all over again. The shows also look back at the lives of people who died that year. Hmmm... 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 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 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. 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 of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.
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 top
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)
STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)
STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
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<td>Q.3.</td>
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<td>Q.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Write about New Year’s Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
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 what 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.