

Live Lesson Notes

Celebrations

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What you will learn in this worksheet:

Useful links

Useful vocabulary

Idioms to talk about Celebrations

Useful Links

Information about **Wedding Anniversaries**

<https://ideas.hallmark.com/articles/anniversary-ideas/anniversary-gifts-by-year/>

Celebrating with **Cake**

<http://linoit.com/users/keithohare/canvases/Cake%20time%21>

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IELTS Speaking Topic: Celebrations

In this free [IELTS Speaking lesson](#) on the topic of Celebrations, you will learn how to talk about different kinds of events that we celebrate and how you celebrate them.

[Watch the complete video about this topic of Celebrations here.](#)

Events We Celebrate

We celebrate many different types of events, some are universal and some are particular to one country.

Here are some of the common events we celebrate in the UK.

Birthdays

We especially celebrate the following birthdays, as they are seen as milestones in our lives: 1, 18, 21, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80.\

1 year old is a chance for parents to celebrate the fact they have made it through the first 365 days!

Both 18 years old and 21 years old are seen as **coming of age** (=become an adult).

The latter is probably a bigger event with family and friends, whereas the former might just be a party with friends.

In English is say, "Life begins at 40!", once the kids have **flown the nest** (=left home) and the parents can begin a kind of second life.

Wedding anniversaries

Almost every anniversary year has a special gift that you should buy your partner.

For example the first year you should buy something made of paper.

Find out more about gifts for different wedding anniversaries.

More events to celebrate

Passing exams

New born baby

Graduation

Getting a promotion

Religious festivals

Useful vocabulary

How do we celebrate?

Here are some useful phrases you can use to answer this question

We like to **crack open a bottle of** champagne

- Champagne
- Bubbly
- Cava
- Sparkling white wine

We usually **have a party**

We tend to **throw a party** for family and friends

We go out for a **slap up meal** = *a big, fancy meal*

We **celebrate by** _____

We celebrate by going out for dinner

We celebrate by buying each other presents

In our house, it's **a family tradition that** the birthday boy / girl has to wear red

In our house, it's **a family tradition to** open any presents before eating.

In my country, traditionally we give money in an envelope

- We have **a family gathering**
- The family **gets together**
- We have **a get-together** with family and friends

IELTS Discussion: - Are Celebrations a waste of Money?

YES

Some celebrations have become **over-commercialised / highly commercialised**

We neglect (*=pay no attention to*) the real meaning behind the celebration

Many families **splurge out on** (*=spend a lot of money on*) parties, like wedding parties, when they can't really afford it.

There is too much showing off, and the real meaning of the event is lost.

NO

That said, it's a **great chance to** relax and **catch up with** extended family and friends

It gives us a break from the mundane routine

These are special days, once in a lifetime events, that we should spend a lot of money on.

IELTS Speaking Idioms about Celebrations

The following all mean to have a good time:

- We **had a ball** at my sister's wedding, it was so much fun!
- I usually **have a whale of a time** at Christmas
- I **had the time of my life** last week when we celebrated my birthday

Here are some more useful idioms you could use when discussing this topic.

We went out and **painting the town red** when we celebrated Jack's birthday! = *to go to a lot of bars, restaurants, pubs and had a great time.*

A stag night = *a party for a man about to be married*

A hen night = *a party for a woman about to be married*

I like to **let my hair down** = *to relax and enjoy myself*