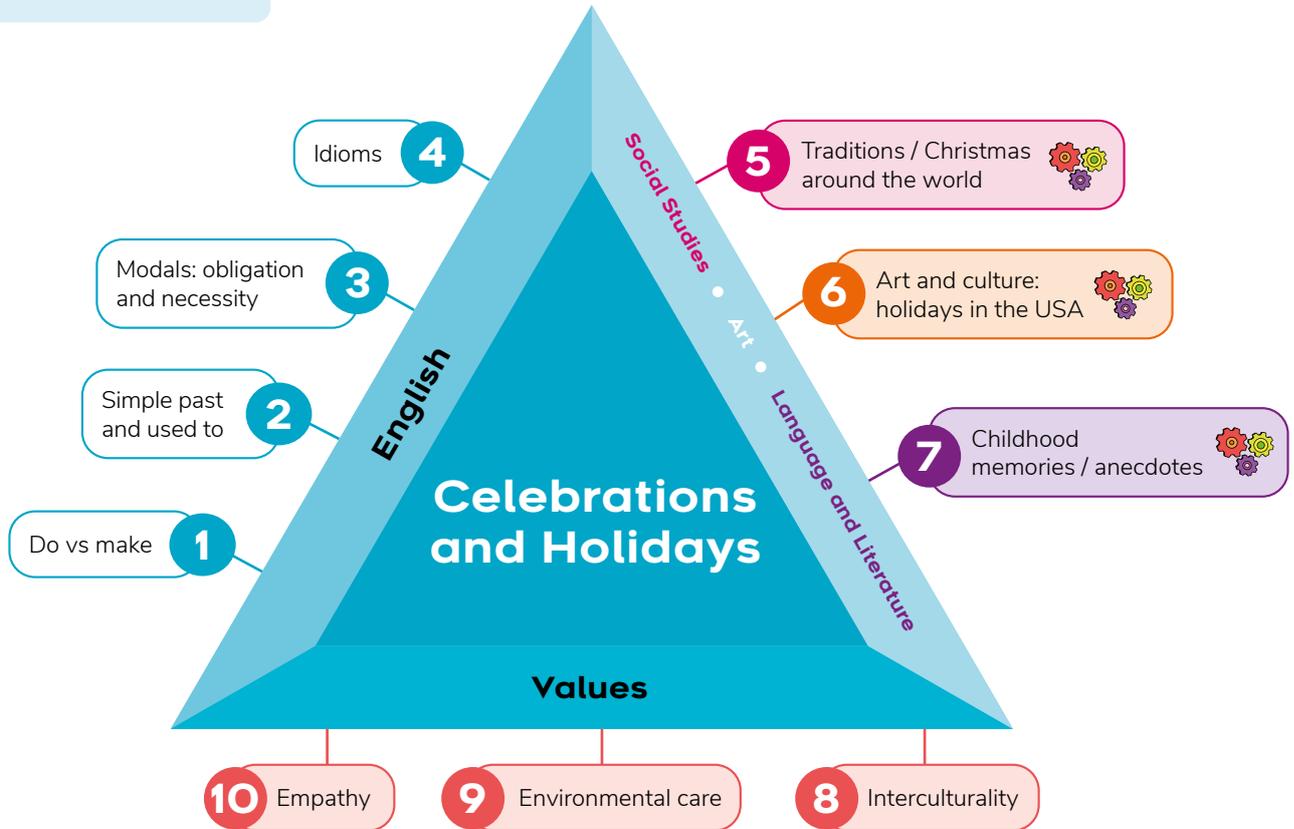


Curricular Threads: Communication and Cultural Awareness, Oral Communication, Reading, Writing, Language Through the Arts

Ninth Grade EGB



Everybody loves to have some days off. People like to get away for a few days to enjoy time with family or friends, and the most common days to enjoy this free time are holidays. Holidays are specific dates



when people do not work because they celebrate a festivity — for example, Christmas or New Year. There are local and international holidays in each country and worldwide.



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- What traditions do you have on specific holidays?
- What are the most popular holidays in your country or city?

Communication and Cultural Awareness



What do people do to celebrate Christmas where you live?



Christmas

1. Read this article about Christmas.

Talking about Christmas worldwide is fun, but it would take a long time. However, there is a clear difference between celebrations in Latin America and Europe and the United States. In Ecuador, families make a family dinner, as well as in the USA. The **traditional** meal is turkey or another traditional food from the region. It's common for American people to make a reservation in a **fancy** restaurant, and at night they do some reading. In Ecuador, families pray "la novena." In Latin America, people usually do the shopping a few weeks before Christmas, but in the USA, parents buy gifts one or two months before. It does not matter where people are; many people celebrate the birth of Jesus, in the Catholic religion.

2. Write similarities and differences about Christmas celebrations in Ecuador and in the USA.



3. What are some of the things that you enjoy about Christmas?

4. Write a list of traditions your family does at Christmas time.

Culture

Christmas is probably the most popular celebration in the world. On this day, December 25th, people celebrate the birth of Jesus. In general, families make time to be together, talk, and exchange gifts. A delicious dinner is also part of this celebration. However, every country celebrates this day in different ways.

Vocabulary

tradition. something that is always done on a holiday or at an event, the adjective form is traditional

fancy. elegant

Oral Communication

Are there any special events for Christmas in your city?

Christmas Celebration

1. Listen to the conversation between Ben and Karin.



Audio
Listen to the dialogue.

Value: Empathy

Empathy has to do with understanding how other people feel. Even people that are not with their families like to share time with friends and other families for traditional celebrations. You can show empathy by inviting people to your celebration, even if they are not part of your family.

2. Say if the sentences are True(T) or False(F).

- a. Ben's dad is making a cake for Christmas.
- b. Ben is sending messages to invite people.
- c. Ben's mom is going shopping on Monday.
- d. Ben's sister needs new headphones.



3. Listen again. Complete the sentences with the expressions you hear.

- a. I _____, I can text them.
- b. I _____ she'd love new headphones.
- c. No _____, let's go shopping on Tuesday.

4. Create a similar conversation between two people. Use the expressions above.

Tip

- Use this expression: *"I mean"*, to make something clear.
- Use this expression: *"I think"*, to express your opinion.
- Use this expression: *"No wait"*, to change your opinion.

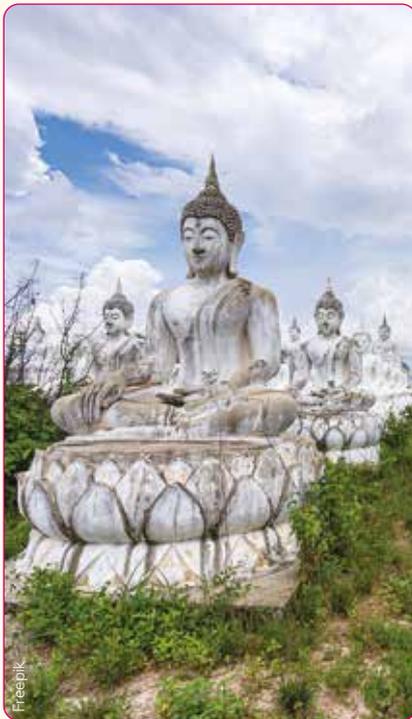


Vocabulary

headphones, small speakers placed over the ears for listening to music

Reading

What are some places that do not celebrate Christmas? Why don't they?



Christmas or a Different Holiday?

1. Read this article about Christmas around the world.

Christmas is the time of the year to be with family, but not everybody celebrates this. There are nine countries in the world which do not celebrate this date. They are China, South Korea, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran, Tayikistán, Brunei, and Somalia.

For example, in China, there are not Catholic people because they are Buddhist. However, on Christmas Eve, they decorate their houses with different **ornaments** because they welcome the New Year in the rest of the world.

In South Korea, they set up Christmas trees in shopping centers, restaurants or tourist places, but not in houses.

Thailand is a country with many tourists. For this reason, they offer visitors some Christmas activities such as decorating streets and hotels.

In the other countries, this celebration is not allowed because of political or religious beliefs.

2. Complete the chart with Christmas traditions in each country.

| Country | Tradition |
|-------------|-----------|
| China | |
| South Korea | |
| Thailand | |



3. Why don't those countries celebrate Christmas? Give two reasons:

4. Come up with three questions based on the reading and let one of your partners answer them without letting them see the reading again:

① _____

② _____

③ _____

Vocabulary

ornaments. decorations

Language Through the Arts



What do you know about Christmas traditions and celebrations in the USA?

Magic Christmas in Orlando

1. Read this article about how people celebrate Christmas in Orlando.

Every year there is a unique and magic event at Orlando, Florida at Magic Kingdom Park. The famous character, Mickey Mouse, celebrates Christmas with a parade full of lights, music, and fantasy during a month, not only on December 24th or 25th.

At night, there are plenty of activities for the whole family; for example, Club Tinsel makes a party for children and adults where everybody can make new friends. Restaurants at Downtown Disney make a great Christmas dinner, and visitors can enjoy tasty desserts and fabulous dishes. On Christmas day, people can see fireworks at the castle in Magic Kingdom. Finally, the main event is Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party place at Magic Kingdom. It is a parade with all Disney characters and Santa Claus. This event lasts two months, November and December. Also, visitors can buy a nice photo at Disney Photo Pass only on these days.

Although the tickets for this event are really expensive, it is a magical experience to celebrate Christmas with family or friends.

2. Choose the correct answer.

• What's the main event in Disneyland?

- a. fireworks b. dinner c. parade

• How long does the Christmas celebration take place in Orlando?

- a. one day b. two months c. the whole year

• What activities can visitors enjoy during the celebration? Write in complete sentences. Start with:

Visitors can _____

Visitors can _____

Visitors can _____

3. In your city, is there a parade or other organized activity on in Christmas' Eve? Explain.

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Pixabay / RogerMayhem



Oral Communication



Art

What does your family usually eat for a Christmas dinner?

A Family Christmas Dinner

- Listen to the conversation between Ben and Fanny.
- Match the people and the activities. Write the letter of the activity next to the person that does it.
 - Ben a. has another party.
 - Ben's dad b. does the shopping.
 - Ben's mom c. does the housework.
 - Ben's sister d. makes a cake.
- Match the pictures and the sentences in the previous activity. Write the numbers 1-4 under the pictures in the order they were talked about.



Audio

Listen to the dialogue.



Freepik



Freepik

- Listen to the conversation again. Complete the sentences with the words you hear.
 - a. Thank you. I'm _____ I'm here with you.
 - b. Wow! That's a _____.
 - c. In the morning, we were in a _____.
 - d. She'll be here in a _____.
- Pair work. Write a continuation of the conversation between Samantha–Ben's sister and aunt Fanny.



Freepik

Samantha: _____

Fanny: _____

Samantha: _____

Fanny: _____

Samantha: _____

Fanny: _____



Vocabulary

in a rush. to hurry because you are late or there is not much time

Communication and Cultural Awareness

Where do you usually spend your holidays? Who do you spend them with?

Culture

Holidays are a nice opportunity to get together with family and friends. People take advantage these days off to relax at home, to do some sports or travel to other cities. The most important thing is to do something fun.



Holy Holidays

1. Read this article about holidays in Spain and in Ecuador.

How do you usually spend your holidays? Where do you spend them? Who do you spend them with? The answers to those questions depend on where you are from, that is, your nationality. For example, Ecuadorian people often spend their holidays with their families, whereas people from Spain frequently prefer to spend their holidays with their friends. The holidays in Ecuador, of course, are different from other countries. Even in Ecuador there are local holidays which other cities don't celebrate. These days off are because of some specific celebrations in a region. For instance, on December 6th Quito celebrates its foundation and on July 25th Guayaquil celebrates its founding date.

Other national holidays are in January 1st, May 1st, November 2nd, among others. On these days, people look forward visiting other places for fun or relatives.

In Spain, there some similar holidays, but they celebrate different festivities also. On December 6th, they celebrate the day of the Spanish Constitution. The Day of Death is in November 1st.

Regardless of what the festivity is, the important thing is to have fun and relax.

2. According to the reading, answer the questions below in complete sentences using your own words.

a. Does every person in the world spend their holidays in the same way? Explain why or why not.

b. What does a typical Ecuadorian family usually do on a holiday?

3. Pair work. Ask your partner the question below and write down their answer.

What do you like to do on a holiday?

Vocabulary

regardless of. without relevance, something that doesn't matter

Oral Communication

Are there a lot of holiday activities in December where you live?

Party Time in Quito

1. Listen to Steve and Tommy talk about Quito in December and decide whether the following statements are **True(T)** or **False(F)**.

- a. David loves December.
- b. Ford can't wait for December.
- c. People from Quito never drink canelazo.
- d. Quito's foundation is celebrated in April.



2. Listen again and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

a. Why does David love December?

b. Do you enjoy celebrating your city's traditional festivities? Yes/No? Why? Share your answer with a classmate next to you and talk about it.

3. Vocabulary. Match the pictures and the sentences from the listening. Write the letters of the descriptions next to the correct picture.

- a. There is music and dancing in the streets.
- b. Quiteños frequently organize Handmade Wooden Cart Races.
- c. They ride **insane** party buses at night [...] Chivas.
- d. People play 40 which is a traditional card game.



Audio
Listen to the dialogue.



Tip

You can use "so" before summarizing what your partner said in order to keep the conversation going. It is a common conversation strategy!



Vocabulary

insane. crazy

Language Through the Arts

Have you ever heard of Juan Pueblo? Do you know who he is?



Juan Pueblo

1. Read this biography about Juan Pueblo.

Juan Pueblo is an icon of Guayaquil. It represents all the **humble** and **hardworking** people who succeed in life. It was created in 1918 by Virgilio Jaime Salinas who was a cartoonist. Usually, tourists go and visit the *Juan Pueblo* sculpture made out of bronze. People can take pictures with this statue at *Plaza Rodolfo Baquerizo Moreno*. Moreover, *Juan Pueblo* is so popular that it even appears on TV commercials sometimes. Additionally, this icon is frequently posted everywhere during Guayaquil's festivities.

This lovely character is around ninety years old, and it is characterized by its cap and its welcoming smile. The physical appearance of this character changed. At the beginning, he looked like a poor and skinny man. Later, the municipality made him look like a hardworking and good-looking *Guayaquileño* man. The objective was to raise *Guayaquileños* self-esteem and self-love. Nowadays, *Juan Pueblo* is the icon of Guayaquil.

2. Circle the correct answers based on the reading.

- Juan Pueblo is:
 - a. a boy
 - b. an adult
 - c. an **icon**
- Juan Pueblo represents:
 - a. rich people
 - b. poor people
 - c. hardworking people
- Tourists usually:
 - a. avoid Juan Pueblo
 - b. visit Guayaquil
 - c. take a photo of Juan Pueblo



Grammar Tip

You can start or end a sentence with “*usually*” or “*sometimes*”.

For example:

- “*I usually go to the beach on vacation*” or “*Usually I go to the beach on vacation*”.
- “*Sometimes I spend holidays at home*” or “*I sometimes spend holidays at home*”

Vocabulary

humble. modest, don't talk about themselves in a good way

hardworking. good at working productive

icon. person or thing that represents something important

3. Get into groups and talk about an icon from your cities. Does it have something in common with Juan Pueblo? If so, what are the similar features? If not, what makes them different from each other? Brainstorm as many ideas as you can. Then, share your ideas with the whole class.

Oral Communication

Have you ever heard of Kasama? Can you describe it or imagine what it is?

Let's Go to Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas

1. Listen to the conversation between two people.
2. Before listening to the conversation, answer the following questions. Make sure to answer these questions using the present continuous, then share your answers with your partners.
 - a. What is the name of the party where Fran and David are?

 - b. Where is the party being held?

 - c. It is a traditional party for what group of Ecuadorians?

3. Now, listen to the conversation and answer these questions in your own words.
 - a. What does Kasama mean?

 - b. Who celebrates this traditional festivity?

 - c. Is Spanish the only language spoken in Ecuador? What other languages are spoken in Ecuador?

4. Imagine a similar situation with you and a friend. Write a short dialogue of 10 lines related to an unknown cultural aspect of Ecuador. Practice and perform it in front of the class.



Audio

Listen to the dialogue.



Listen and look for words in native Ecuadorian languages. Find their meanings in English.



Value: Interculturality

English is fun and useful, but in Ecuador people speak more languages than just Spanish and Kichwa. Those languages are part of our history and identity.

Reading

What do you know about the All Souls Day celebrated in Ecuador.

Culture

All Souls Day is a day to remember our loved ones. There are many traditions around the world. People organize festivals, prepare special food, and tell tales.

This is an important holiday in Latin America.

Ecuador's All Souls Day

1. Read this article about Ecuador's All Souls Day.

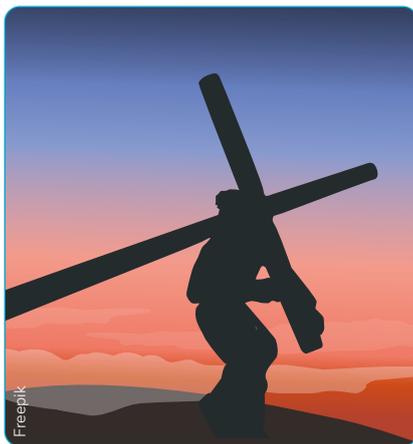
Ecuador's All Souls Day is a traditional holiday that is celebrated on November 2nd. Families get together at **cemeteries** to spend time with their beloved ones who passed away. How? Basically, what they do is bring two culinary traditions: *guaguas de pan* and *colada morada*. *Guaguas de pan* is bread baked in the shape of sort of dough babies decorated with colorful **toppings**. *Colada morada* is a traditional hot beverage cooked with strawberries and some other spices. The point is to share the food with the beloved ones who are gone by leaving the food next to their graves. The tradition says that dead people eat the food at night, when no one is at the cemetery.

2. Answer the following questions in your own words based on the reading.

a. What do Ecuadorians usually do for All Souls Day?

b. What kind of food is prepared for All Souls Day?

3. Do you celebrate the All Souls Day? If so, what do you usually do on that day? If not, what do you do instead? Write down and then share your answers with your partners.



Vocabulary

cemetery. place for dead people

toppings. small food items to add color and flavor on top of another food such as cakes and pizzas



Writing

What is your favorite holiday? Explain what you like about it.

We All Like Holidays!

1. Imagine you are writing a paragraph about your favorite holiday or day of the year. The questions to be answered are:
 - a. What is your favorite holiday or day of the year?
 - b. What activities do you usually do on that day?
 - c. Who do you spend your time with?

Take the following paragraph as an example. Make sure to focus on the adverbs of frequency that are underlined.

My favorite holiday is Carnival because I always play fun games with my family. I am never alone during Carnival. We usually visit Guaranda during this holiday. My family and I often play Carnival by throwing *carioca*, which is a colorful foam, at each other. We never use or waste water. However, the *carioca* cans are bad for the environment so we don't use a lot.



2. Now, it is your turn! Use your own information, be sure to use adverbs of frequency:
 - a. What is your holiday or day of the year?
 - b. What activities do you usually on that day?
 - c. Who do you spend your time with?

3. Investigate other holidays in Ecuador and complete the chart.

| Date | Holiday | Activity |
|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| January 1st | New Year | People usually make promises. |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Grammar Tip

Adverbs of frequency.

They are placed before the verb. The only exception is the verb "to be", so adverbs of frequency are placed after "TO BE".

For instance:

- I always pay attention in class.
- I am never late.

- 100% → always
- 90-80% → usually
- 70-60% → often
- 50% → sometimes
- 40-30% → seldom
- 20-10% → rarely
- 0% → never

Assessment

Speaking

1 Interview a classmate about different festivities. Ask them the following questions and create two of your own. Take notes.

a. What do you usually do for Christmas?

b. How can you make new friends in parties?

c. Which holidays do you celebrate with your family?

d. What's your favorite holiday? Why?

Share with the class.

2 Describe the pictures of events. Write about who is in the picture, where they are and what they are doing.





Listening

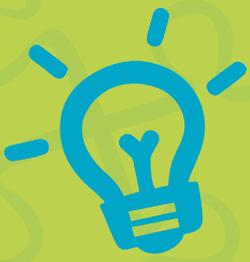
3 Answer if the sentences are True(T) or False(F).

- a. Henry doesn't celebrate Halloween in his country.
- b. Jack-o-lanterns are a dessert.
- c. Students are organizing the party at the school.
- d. Children ask for candies.

4 Match the pictures with the activities people do in Halloween. Write the letters next to the correct pictures.

- a. make different kind of cakes.
- b. decorate pumpkins.
- c. use costumes in parties.
- d. buy candies.





Project 1

Your Own Traditional Festival

Let's find out how creative you and your classmates are.

STEP 1

- Get into groups of four students. Brainstorm some ideas on what makes a good event and write some notes on the lines below:



STEP 2

- Come to an agreement with each other on the features your traditional event will have. Tell your teacher about your final decision.

STEP 3

- Prepare a 10-minute oral presentation with pictures, to explain what your traditional event would look like.

Don't forget to use all the new vocabulary you have learned so far.

STEP 4

- Once all the presentations are over, compare your own traditional event with your classmates' proposals. Do they have a lot in common? Yes/No, why?



Let's Review

Vocabulary

- 1— Complete these sentences. Write do or make. Use simple past.
- My uncle _____ a great plan for our Christmas party last year.
 - My classmates _____ English homework at library yesterday.
 - I _____ exercise with my cousins last week.
 - My mom and I _____ a delicious dinner last night.

Reading

- 2— Read about a birthday celebration.



My birthday is on December 29th, and my family always organises a great celebration. Last year was the best. My mom made *ceviche*, but she didn't prepare a cake. She knows I love seafood and I hate sweets. My best friend, Micaela, called my friends from high school and they organized a surprise party. It wasn't big, but we enjoyed ourselves. My cousin, Roberto, downloaded some good music, and we danced all night. It was a night to remember.
-Leo

- 3— Write if the sentences are **True(T)** or **False(F)**:

- There was cake at the party.
- They ate seafood.
- It was a huge party.
- They had a good time.



Grammar

- 4— Complete the sentences with the correct adverb of frequency.

always never sometimes

- I really love birthdays, so I _____ celebrate mine with a big party.
- I don't believe in ghost and things like that, so I _____ celebrate Halloween.
- I enjoy holidays, but I don't travel a lot. I _____ go to the beach.



Communication and Cultural Awareness

What are your favorite places to visit on vacation?

Culture

Vacation is a great time to explore new cities and have new experiences. People travel to a lot of places. Each city has its must-do to visit, eat or see. Most Ecuadorian people prefer going to the beach.

Favorite Destinations

1. Read this article about vacation.

The truth is many Ecuadorian people go to the beach on vacation. Is that true for you too? If so, there are some must-have travel items you need to bring every time no matter where you go. In light of the fact that the UV (ultraviolet) radiation is so high, you must bring sunscreen protection cream in order to protect your skin. Make sure it is waterproof! Another essential is a pair of sunglasses. Furthermore, and probably the most important essential is to bring a bottle of water in your backpack. Last but not least, you must have your personal hygiene kit that has to include a small roll-on deodorant, hairbrush, small tube of toothpaste, mini shampoo bottle and a small **first aid kit**.

2. According to the reading, answer the questions below in complete sentences using your own words.

a. Where do Ecuadorian people usually go on vacation?

b. What is something you should never forget when going to the beach?

3. Work in pairs. Ask your partner the question below. Make sure to write down their ideas.

Where do you usually go on vacation? What do you think people must bring when traveling?

4. Look at the pictures. Write one of the words below the picture it matches.

scissors band – aid pocket mirror fire extinguisher



Vocabulary

destination. the place you go to when you travel

first aid kit. emergency medical supplies

Oral Communication

Do you have any plans for your next vacation? Is it important to plan or not?

A German in Ecuador!

1. Listen to Daniel and Norma talk, then decide whether the following statements are **True(T)** or **False(F)**.

- a. Daniel is from Germany.
- b. Norma is from Ecuador.
- c. Germans prepare their vacation ahead of time.
- d. Ecuadorians leave plans for the last minute.

2. Listen again and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

a. How do Germans plan for their vacation?

b. Do you think it is important to plan before going on vacation? Yes/No? Why? Share your answer with your classmate next to you and talk about it.



Audio
Listen to the dialogue.



Freepik



Value: Environmental care

You can use expressions like “We must protect our environment” or “We have to keep our environment clean and protected when going to the beach and everywhere else”. Remember to protect the planet, it’s the only one we have.



Freepik

Grammar Tip

Both **modal verbs**: “*have to*” and “*must*” express necessity.



Do you have any plans for your vacation? Is it important to plan or not?



Vocabulary

long time no see. means I haven’t seen you for a long time

budget. plan for use of money

Reading

Would you like to do and see if you could visit Japan?



Do you take responsibility of all the garbage you create? If so, what do you usually do? If not, what do you promise to do from now on? Make a list below. Share your answers with your partners.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Japan!

1. Read this article about tourism in Japan.

Japan is definitely one of my favorite places in the entire world! It is just amazing the way people keep every city so clean. For this reason, I think it sets a perfect example for every country regarding public cleanliness. Having a culture of cleanliness requires the following:



Freeplik

- You have to take responsibility for your own **mess**. Don't expect others to take care of any garbage you create. So, you must have your own garbage bag all the time.
- No street cleaners! Japanese people sweep up around their house or place of employment every morning.
- As a Japanese citizen, you are expected to join community clean-ups. By doing that, you and your neighbors help each other while **tidying up** the **surroundings**.

2. Decide whether the following statements are **True(T)** or **False(F)**.

- a. Japan has a culture of cleanliness.
- b. A Japanese citizen sweeps up around their house.
- c. Japanese neighbors help each other when cleaning.
- d. In Japan, you have to take care of the garbage you create.

3. Answer the following questions in your own words based on the reading.

- a. Why is Japan so clean?

- b. What does having a culture of cleanliness involve?



Vocabulary

mess. unorganized, messy

tidy up. putting things in order, organize things

surroundings. all around an area

Writing

What are some of your favorite place to travel?

Trip Advisor

1. Imagine you are writing a paragraph with advice for tourists who want to visit your city. Your paragraph is expected to include the following information:
 - What is the best time of the year to visit your city?
 - What are some precautions tourists need to consider?
 - What do visitors need to pack?
2. Take the following paragraph as an example. Make sure to focus on the modal verbs that are underlined.

Tourists should visit my city in December because of the traditional festivities that take place. In addition, tourists must take some precautions. They have to avoid using their smart phones in public places. In addition they must bring a bottle of water and sunblock lotion no matter where they go.

Now, it is your turn! Use your own information, be sure to use modal verbs.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Once you are done, hand your book to your classmate and take theirs. Check your classmate's email by providing feedback, on how to improve the email itself. Check to see they answered all the questions. Then, return the books. Improve your email by following your partner's suggestions.



In your notebook, prepare an oral presentation about your paragraph. During your presentation, you may ask some questions just to check if everyone is paying attention.

Grammar Tip

Modal verbs: They are always followed by the **base form** of the verb.

For instance:

- I *have to* **carry** my passport all the time.
- I *must* **take** precautions in order to travel safe.

Remember: The modal verb "have to" changes its conjugation into "**has to**" when it comes to third singular persons:
He, she and it.

For example:
*He **has to** get a special vaccine for traveling to the Amazon rainforest.*

Language Through the Arts

Have you ever seen the TV show “Ecuadorianos en el Mundo”?

Galo Arellano

1. Read this biography about Galo Arellano.



Galo Arellano is an Ecuadorian journalist who was born in Quito, but currently lives in the USA. He moved to the USA when he was 18 years old and since then he has always wanted to be a reporter. He never knew his dream would come true. Nowadays, he is famous because of the TV Program called “Ecuadorianos en el Mundo”. As a matter of fact, his work was so good that he was nominated twice for an Emmy Award in the **Outstanding** Newscast Category. Overall, the most interesting thing about “Ecuadorianos en el Mundo” has to do with the fact that you get to see how all Ecuadorians fight for their dreams **abroad** and it encourages people to give it a try. So, why don’t you go abroad and find new horizons?

2. Circle the correct answers based on the reading.

• Galo Arellano is from:

- a. The USA b. Quito c. Spain

• Galo Arellano was nominated for:

- a. The Academy Award b. The Grammy Award c. The Emmy Award

• He moved to the USA when he was:

- a. 28 years old b. 18 years old c. 38 years old

3. According to the reading, what makes “Ecuadorianos en el mundo” special for Ecuadorians?

4. Get into groups and talk about a similar TV Show that inspires Ecuadorian people. Does it have something in common with “Ecuadorianos en el mundo”? Brainstorm as many ideas as you can. Then, share your ideas with the whole class.

Vocabulary

outstanding. exceptional

abroad. outside your own country

Oral Communication

In which part of the world is Germany?

Hallo from Germany

1. Listen to the conversation between Daniel and Norma.
2. Now, listen to the conversation and answer these questions in your own words.

a. What does "hallo" mean in English?

b. What is a Eurail pass?

c. Describe the way you get on a train in Germany. Is it the same as traveling in Ecuador?

3. What do you think about the Ecuadorian transportation system? Come up with some suggestions to improve the transportation system in your city. Share your opinions with your partners.

1.

2.

3.

4. Match the sentences with the pictures. Write the letters.









- a. Using trains is the best way to travel.
- b. You need to buy a Eurail pass.
- c. You have to wait until the passengers get off.
- d. Buses are not popular in Europe.



Audio
Listen to the dialogue.



Pixabay / Karlheinz Pape



Create a similar conversation. Use the expression "anything else" to ask for more information.

Communication and Cultural Awareness

What are some of your feelings on New Year's Eve?

Culture

New Year's Eve is a great time because, in the whole world, people have parties and different celebrations to welcome the year. The party starts on December 31st, and the first day of the year is January 1st. Different traditions worldwide make this day special.

Correct these sentences from the reading. Many years ago:

a. people watched TV.

- _____
- _____

b. people didn't make promises.

- _____
- _____

c. people didn't dance in the streets.

- _____
- _____

d. people only ate snacks.

- _____
- _____

Vocabulary

count down. from 10 down to 0, 10-9-8-7-etc.

toast. when everyone drinks together in honor of something or someone

New Year's Eve

1. Read this article about New Year's Eve.

Welcoming the New Year is an important event. However, in Ecuador, people used to do many things which make this celebration unique. Some traditions used to be different, but the general idea is the same. A well-known Ecuadorian tradition is to burn dolls (*monigotes*) at midnight. They represent all the bad moments of the old year, and it is a good luck symbol for the New Year.

Also, men dress like women, and they are "widows" of the old year. They dance in the streets and ask for pennies. People have parties with friends and family. Many years ago, families met together, and they listened to the New Year's **count down** on a radio station called "*Radio Tarqui*". After that, they made promises and, of course, they danced and talked in houses or streets. New Year is a huge celebration, and people make dinner and have a **toast**.

In the rest of the world, people organize huge celebrations in the streets, and the count down is on main streets. For example, in New York, people can count down until midnight at Times Square.

2. Read the article. Answer the questions.

a. What is an important tradition in Ecuador on New Year's Eve?

b. How do some men celebrate New Year? Use your own words to explain.

c. What did families use to do years ago on New Year?

d. What happens in New York on New Year's eve?

Oral Communication



Language and Literature

Who in your family tells the best stories?

Family Anecdotes

1. Listen to the conversation between Bob and his grandma. Complete the sentences with one word.
 - a. Granny is talking about _____ stories.
 - b. Bob's dad and aunt used to climb _____.
 - c. Granny's sister bought _____ for New Year.
 - d. Bob's family used to listen to the _____ on the radio.
2. Listen to the conversation again. Complete the phrases Bob uses to express surprise.
 - a. Bob: _____? That's a surprise.
 - b. Bob: _____? He's always telling me to share.
3. Complete the questions. Use one verb from the box. Ask them to your friend. Use "did" in the questions since they are in the past.

get eat do celebrate

- a. _____ you _____ turkey when you were a kid?

- b. Where _____ you _____ your last birthday?

- c. _____ your family _____ together in holidays?

- d. What _____ your family _____ for New Year's dinner last year?

Grammar Tip

Simple past

Auxiliar:

- Negative sentences: **didn't** (verb doesn't change)
Example: *I didn't celebrate my birthday yesterday.*
- Questions: **did** (verb doesn't change)
Example: *Did you celebrate your birthday?*
- Short answers: **did, didn't**
- Example: *Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.*



Audio
Listen to the dialogue.



Value: Empathy

An excellent way of being empathetic is to listen to your family. Your relatives or your close friends will always be there for you to help you. You can learn a lot when you listen to other people's **anecdotes** or experiences.



Vocabulary

anecdote. a short story told to a group

Reading



Language and Literature

Do you know any of your relative's childhood memories?

Read the anecdote. Write numbers 1-4 to put the events in the order they happened in the story.

- _____ Erick's cousin was afraid.
- _____ Erick and his cousins ate grapes.
- _____ Erick didn't drink water.
- _____ Erick's family met to celebrate the New Year.

Are You Kidding Dad?

1. Read the blog about Bob's father's childhood memory.

Yes! That's what my son, Bob, said when I told him one of my best childhood memories. I was a mischievous boy. *I loved* to play with my sister Lucy; she is two years younger than me.

My favorite childhood memory *was* many years ago, when I *was* eight years old, and my sister was six. It was the New Year's celebration **and** all my family *got* together to celebrate. One of my family's traditions is eating twelve grapes at night. *I wanted* to compete with my cousins and my sister, so *I told* them – "If you eat twelve grapes in a minute, I will give you one of my toys." They *accepted*, and we *started* to eat. **Suddenly**, a grape got stuck in my throat, and my cousin got scared. They *didn't know* what to do. **Then**, my sister *gave* me a glass of water, but it wasn't water. It was champagne! -Luckily I didn't **get drunk**. Finally, I *learned* to share my toys.

Erick

2. Match the pictures and the sentences. Write the letters next to the correct pictures.
 - a. Last Friday, the party started at midnight.
 - b. I used to love grapes when I was a child.
 - c. My best friend enjoyed the celebrations and parties.
 - d. Everybody drank champagne at the party.



Freepik

3. Complete the questions with one word from the box. Use simple past. Interview a friend about his/her last New Year's Eve.

make travel burn eat meet

- _____ you _____ to another city?
- Who _____ you _____ at the party?
- What _____ you _____?
- _____ you _____ a doll?
- _____ you _____ a toast?

Vocabulary

get drunk. drink too much alcohol

Writing



What is a good story about one of your favorite holidays?

Holiday Anecdotes

An anecdote is a story you tell anyone about something funny or sad that happened to you some time ago. You can include as many details as you like.



Grammar Tip

Use **connectors**:

- To start: *First,*
- To continue: *Then, After a while, Suddenly*
- To finish: *Finally,*

Remember:

- You use a comma (,) after each connector → *First,*

1. Think about your favorite holiday. Now, you are going to write an anecdote that happened to you on your last holiday. You can follow the model from the reading on the previous page. Follow these steps:

| Title: | What a trip! | Write something fun |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Intro: | Last holiday, I went to Montañita with my friends from high school. It was on May 24th. | Say where and when you went, and with who. |
| Body: | All my friends wanted to go dancing, so we decided to look for a nice place. After a while, we found a good disco. The music was excellent, and we entered. Suddenly, my friend, Vicky, fell and she shouted. Then, we helped her. | Tell the story – don't forget to use connectors. |
| Conclusion: | Finally, she was ok. We stopped laughing at her, and we danced all night. | Finish the story. |

2. Write your anecdote.

Introduction

1

2

3

Conclusion



Language Through the Arts

Did you know that China celebrates New Year on January 25th? Why is that?



Chinese New Year

1. Read this article about Chinese New Year.

People also know Chinese New Year as Spring Festival. It sets the beginning of New Moon Festivals in Asia. This is a **huge** celebration where everybody wears red clothes and accessories. Also, families get together to have a big dinner. There are parades all over the main cities, and the symbol is the dragon. There are also some **warriors**.

The festival was originally a day to honor Chinese ancestors. The legend says that a giant **beast** called Nian entered the houses at midnight to eat people. But an ethnic group whose name was Yan Huang, used to be with people to defeat Nian. Eventually, they discovered that the beast came once a year, and it was afraid of red colors, lights, fire, and noise. They started to celebrate this festival as a way of self-defense from the beast. This is a legend, but nowadays it is a common story to tell on that day; especially for children.

Interview your partner.

a. How much you know about the legend behind this celebration?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

b. What parts of the Chinese New Year celebration would you enjoy?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Choose the correct answer.

• What's the name of the Chinese festival?

a. Lunar New Year Festival

b. Asian Festival

c. Spring



• What's the main symbol of this celebration?

a. dragon

b. deities

c. soldiers



3. Read the article again. Say if the sentences are **True (T)** or **False (F)**.

a. People use red things like T-shirt, dresses, hats.

b. This celebration was to honor a monster.

c. Nian was a beast which ate families.

d. The beast appeared all year.

e. Parents tell their children this legend.



Vocabulary

huge: big

warrior: soldier

beast: large, dangerous animal

Oral Communication



Art

What traditions did your grandparents used to do on New Years?

Old Traditions

1. Listen to the dialogue. Complete the chart with the things Granny's family used to do in New Year.



Audio

Listen to the dialogue.

| | Activity |
|------------------|----------|
| Granny's mom | |
| Granny's dad | |
| Granny's grandma | |
| Granny's aunt | |



Talk to your partner about the New Year superstitions you know and their meanings.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2. Listen to the dialogue again. Match the New Year superstitions with their meaning. There's one extra meaning.

Midnight **mass**:

Coins:

Throw water

Eat lentils:

a. love

b. **avoid** sadness

c. luck

d. health

e. wealth



Vocabulary

purse. a small case for coins

mass. religious celebration

avoid. eliminate

Assessment

Speaking

1 Interview a classmate about different festivities. Ask them the following questions and create two of your own. Take notes.

a. What is your favorite holiday activity?

b. When did you last celebrate an international holiday?

c. What did you used to do for Christmas when you were a child?

d. What are popular destinations to visit in your city during a holiday?

e. _____

f. _____

2 These pictures are about the Thompson family celebrating Christmas in 2012 and 2019. Describe and compare the pictures. How are they the same and different?



2012



2019

Listening

3 Listen to the conversation between two people talking about Carnival holiday. What did Peter do on Carnival?

4 Number the pictures from 1 to 5 in the order they happened.



Freepik / Pixabay

5 Listen again. Complete the sentences from the dialogue.

- I _____ with some friends from high school and my parents.
- Yeah, but my dad _____ with me.
- We _____ to Manta.
- The weather _____ warm.
- We _____ there one day.



Pixabay / alejomiranda



Project 2

All You Need Is Cleanliness

Let's take care of our environment!

STEP 1

- Get into groups of four students. Brainstorm some reasons why there is so much pollution on Ecuadorian beaches after a typical holiday. Write some notes on the lines below:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



STEP 2

- Brainstorm again and come to an agreement with each other on some possible solutions on how to keep our beaches clean. Remember to come up with a solution for each problem listed in the previous step.

STEP 3

- Prepare a 10-minute oral presentation with pictures to explain what your solutions are.

Don't forget to use all the new vocabulary you have learned so far, especially modals like *have to*.

STEP 4

- Once all the presentations are over, compare your solutions with your classmates' proposals. Do they have a lot in common? Yes/no, why?

STEP 5

- Finally, decide on the best solution as a group. Make a presentation in your class.

