

ESL/EFL Discussion Topics

- Does your country celebrate New Year's Day on January 1? If not, when do you celebrate the new year?
- How is New Year's Day celebrated in your country? What about New Year's Eve?
- How did you spend your last New Year's Day? How do you plan to spend this New Year's Day?
- Which do you enjoy more, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day? Why?
- Are there special foods that you eat on New Year's? If so, describe them.
- Is New Year's Day primarily a holiday for children, for adults, or for both? Explain your answer.
- How do New Year's Eve and New Year's Day differ from other holidays? How are they similar to other holidays?
- Are you more likely to ring in the new year with friends or family? Why?
- What is the purpose of New Year's resolutions?
- What are the benefits of making New Year's resolutions?
- What are the potential dangers in making New Year's resolutions?
- Do you think New Year's resolutions are a good idea? Why or why not?
- Have you ever made a New Year's resolution? What was it? Why did you make it? Were you able to keep it?
- If you could make one life change in the upcoming year, what would it be? Why?
- List five goals you have for the upcoming year.
- It's easy enough to make New Year's resolutions, but keeping them is another matter. List some suggestions that might help people keep their resolutions.
- Fireworks are popular in the United States, but many people question their safety. Each year, dozens of children and adults are injured by fireworks. Some people say only trained professionals, such as firefighters or police officers, should be allowed to set them off. Other people say fireworks are safe, as long as the person setting them off is careful. Still others argue that fireworks are a New Year's tradition and should not be banned whether or not they are safe. What do you think? Are fireworks safe? Should anyone be allowed to purchase them? Why or why not?
- New Year's Eve parties often include alcoholic beverages. Some people drink heavily, then want to drive home. Each year, accidents caused by drunk drivers claim hundreds lives in the United States. During the holiday season, various groups sponsor television ads that say "Friends don't let friends drink and drive." How might you respond if you knew someone had been drinking and saw them pick up their car keys? What should you do if the person with whom you had ridden to a party became intoxicated?