

Introductory Reading

 20 			
January ☆☆	February ☆ ☆	March ☆	April
May ☆☆	June	July ☆	August
September ☆	October ☆ ☆	November ☆ ☆ ☆	December ☆

There are many special days in the United States; some of them are **legal** holidays. On a legal holiday, schools, businesses, and government offices are usually closed. Legal holidays are also called federal holidays because all federal government offices are closed. Many people do not go to work. There are ten legal holidays that are observed throughout the country.

Some states **celebrate** local holidays to **commemorate** events that are important to that state or region. They remember and honor important local events. For example, on or about April 19, a famous date of the American Revolution, Massachusetts and Maine celebrate Patriots' Day. On this day, the famous race, the Boston Marathon, is held.

There are also several special **religious** days. The word “holiday” is a combination of “holy” and “day,” but the only religious day that is also a legal holiday is Christmas. Other well known religious days are Good Friday and Easter (Christian), Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Jewish), and Id-al-Fitr and Id-al-Adha (Muslim).



There are also special days that are not holidays or commemorative days. One of these days is February 2nd, when people in the northern part of the United States are beginning to look forward to spring. It is called Groundhog Day. There is a **superstition** that on this day a small animal, the groundhog, comes out of its hole in the ground where it has spent the winter. If the sun is shining and it sees its shadow,

it will go back in its hole and there will be six more weeks of winter. If the sun is not shining, the groundhog will stay out and spring will come early.

April Fools' Day is the first day of April, a time when spring is coming and people are feeling playful. On this day people play tricks on each other. A favorite trick is to say something that is not true. If another person believes what is said, they are an "April Fool."

From time to time, Friday comes on the 13th day of the month. Friday the Thirteenth is considered an unlucky day, and some superstitious people are very careful because they are afraid that something bad may happen during the day.

The readings in this book describe the best known legal holidays and commemorative days. You can find most of them on your **calendar**. August is the only month in the calendar year that never has a holiday.

Now do the exercises and check your answers. If you can do the Internet search, fill in the dates of this year's holidays on page 6. If you cannot use the Internet, find the dates on a calendar.

Exercises (ANSWERS ON PAGE 164)

I. Use the words below to complete the sentences.

legal
religious

celebrate
commemorate

superstition
calendar

1. There are ten _____ holidays in the United States.
2. Groundhog Day is based on a _____.
3. Some states _____ their own holidays.
4. Easter is a _____ day.
5. There is a _____ on the wall.
6. Patriots' Day _____s the patriots of the American Revolution.

II. Use these forms of the key words to complete the sentences.

illegal
legally

religion
celebration

commemorative
superstitious

1. He is not scared of Friday the Thirteenth because he is not _____.



2. The government issued two _____ postage stamps for Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. It is _____ to drink alcohol and drive a car at the same time.



4. In 1986 there was a great _____ for the Statue of Liberty.
5. A person without a driver's license cannot _____ drive a car.
6. Christianity is not the official _____ of the United States.

III. Respond to these statements and questions with a sentence

1. Name one religious holiday.

2. What does Patriots' Day commemorate?

3. How many calendars do you have?

4. Do you celebrate any religious holidays?

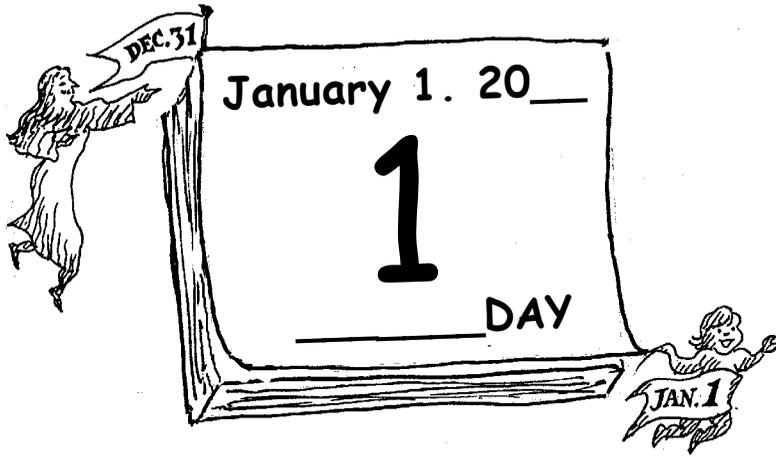
5. When is the next legal holiday?

6. Do you have any superstitions?

IV. Search the Internet to find out more about holidays in the US. You can begin by checking this site: www.holidays.net. Click on Days and Dates. Then fill in the list of holidays for this year.

Holidays for 20__	Month	Day	Date
New Year's Day			
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday			
Chinese New Year			
Valentine's Day			
Presidents' Day			
St. Patrick's Day			
Easter			
Cinco de Mayo			
Mother's Day			
Memorial Day			
Father's Day			
Independence Day			
Labor Day			
Columbus Day			
Halloween			
Veterans Day			
Election Day			
Thanksgiving			
Christmas			
Kwanzaa			
Id-il-Fitr			
Id-il-Adha			
Rosh Hashanah			
Yom Kippur			
Hanukkah			
Your birthday			

New Year's Day

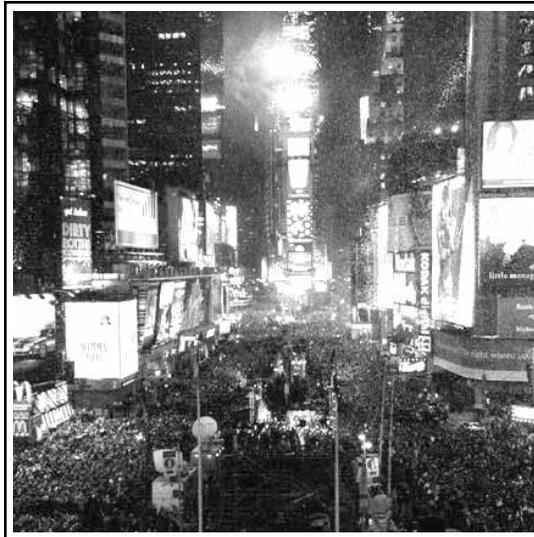


Traditions and Customs

New Year's Day is a legal holiday celebrated in the United States. The celebration begins on December 31, New Year's Eve, the night before New Year's Day. Many people stay up until midnight. Some go to church while others go to parties. Horns, whistles, and other noisemakers are very popular on this night. This is an old tradition from **ancient** times when people made loud noises to scare away evil spirits.

When the ringing of bells and the blowing of whistles and horns announce that the new year has started, some people shake hands; others kiss and **embrace**. Many join together to sing "Auld Lang Syne." In addition to blowing whistles and horns, people throw paper confetti and streamers and call out "Happy New Year," raising their drinks in a **toast** to the future, hoping it will bring health, peace, and **prosperity**.

*In Times Square
in New York City each
New Year's Eve at
midnight the ball falls
and the party begins.
Millions of people
watch the party on TV.*



On New Year's Eve, many cities have a celebration called "First Night." New York City holds an outdoor event which attracts a **crowd** of a million or more people. The event is televised around the country. A large ball shaped like an apple and covered with bright lights is slowly lowered from a pole on top of a tall building in Times Square. It starts coming down one minute before midnight. When it reaches the bottom of the pole, the new year has begun.

New Year's Day is celebrated in different ways. Many people hold "Open House," serving refreshments to visitors. Eggnog, a drink made with milk and eggs, is especially popular. Others watch the parades and football games that are typical of this day. The Mummer's Parade in Philadelphia has marchers in **elaborate** costumes. The Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, California, is known for its floats decorated with fresh flowers. The most famous college football game, the Rose Bowl, is played after the parade.

Background

New Year's Day celebrates the start of a new year. People who follow the Roman calendar celebrate this holiday on January first. This month was named for Janus, the ancient Roman god with two faces, one looking into the past, the other looking into the future.

On New Year's Day people often think about the past year. They remember the projects they finished and the **goals** they did not **achieve**. Like Janus, they also look forward to a new beginning and make "new year **resolutions**" on what they will achieve.

On New Year's Day families often watch the Tournament of Roses parade on TV. There are many bands and floats in the parade. There are also many horses. Here the Rita Ranch Cowboy Girls do rope tricks on horseback.

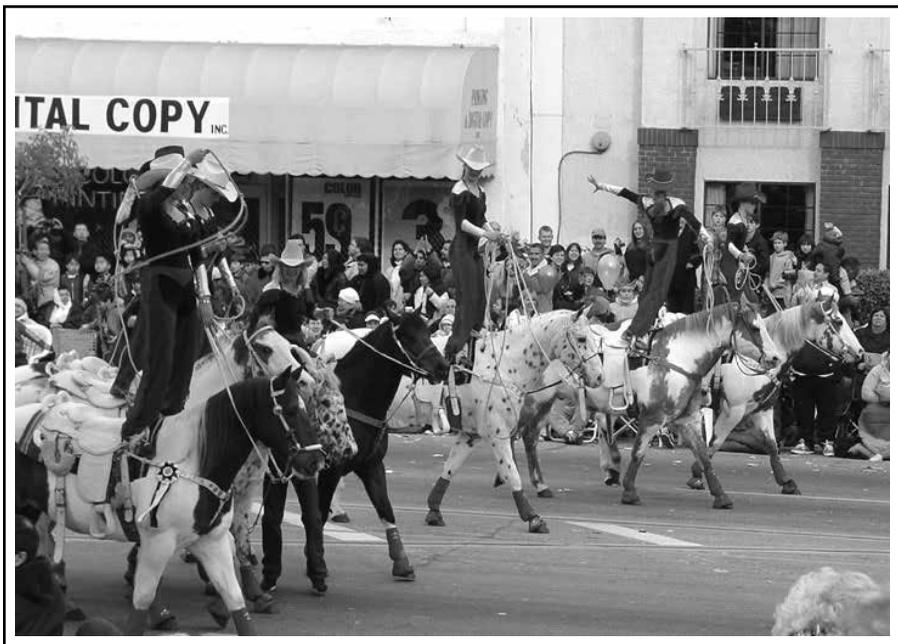


Photo by Galen R. Fryinger (www.galenfryinger.com)

Exercises (ANSWERS ON PAGE 164)

I. Match each word with its meaning.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|--|
| 1. toast | _____ | a. many people |
| 2. achieve | _____ | b. detailed; complicated |
| 3. elaborate | _____ | c. to do successfully |
| 4. resolution | _____ | d. decorated vehicle |
| 5. goal | _____ | e. very old |
| 6. prosperity | _____ | f. something to work for |
| 7. embrace | _____ | g. a firm decision |
| 8. ancient | _____ | h. an expression of affection; a hug |
| 9. crowd | _____ | i. good fortune; success |
| 10. float | _____ | j. a drink to honor someone or something |

II. Choose the best word to complete each sentence.

1. Football games attract a large (crowd, parade, toast).
2. Some marchers in the parade wear (hats, toast, elaborate) costumes.
3. The (crowds, floats, people) in the "Tournament of Roses" parade are covered with fresh flowers.
4. Making loud noises on New Year's Eve is a tradition that began in (ancient, modern, cold) times.
5. We all hope to (toast, achieve, decorate) our goals in the coming year.
6. People should make (crowds, goals, prosperity) for the new year.
7. At midnight people kiss and (achieve, sit, embrace) one another.
8. Most people make (resolutions, parties, embraces) that are difficult to keep.
9. Everybody hopes that the new year brings (prosperity, tradition, goals) and health.
10. When the new year arrives, many people raise their glasses and make a (achieve, toast, resolve) to the future.

III. Complete the following passage.

Everybody expects large _____ in Times Square on New Year's Eve. When the apple reaches the bottom of the pole, people shout "Happy New Year" and _____ one another. At the same time, people at parties blow whistles and horns, following an _____ tradition. They _____ with champagne and think about their _____ for the new year. They make _____ to improve their lives, and hope they can keep them. Everyone looks to the future for peace and _____. The following day, many families watch parades. They enjoy the _____ covered with flowers and the marchers in _____ costumes.

IV. Complete these sentences.

1. The wedding celebration started with a _____ to the newly married couple.
2. The young couple worked hard so they could enjoy _____ in later years
3. The Pyramids and the Sphinx are monuments of _____ Egypt.
4. The athlete achieved her _____ when she won an Olympic gold medal.
5. The oriental rug was decorated with an _____ design.
6. The rock concert attracted a noisy _____.
7. Musicians practice long hours to _____ their artistic goals.
8. The old friends _____ with emotion after the long absence.
9. The sisters promised to tell each other their New Year's _____.
10. The students worked many hours to finish the _____ for the college parade.



V. Write questions that can be answered by each statement below.
The first word of each question has been written for you.

Example: People celebrate the new year with noisemakers.

a. How do people celebrate the new year?

1. The New Year's holiday begins on the evening of December 31st.

a. What _____?

b. When _____?

2. Large crowds attend the outdoor event in Times Square, New York City.

a. Who _____?

b. Where _____?

3. Americans go to parties to celebrate the new year.

a. Who _____?

b. Where _____?

c. Why _____?



4. Alfredo made a resolution during the New Year's holiday.

- a. Who _____ ?
- b. What _____ ?
- c. When _____ ?

5. In ancient times people made loud noises to scare away evil spirits.

- a. Who _____ ?
- b. What _____ ?
- c. Why _____ ?

VI. Use the Internet to learn more about New Year's Day.

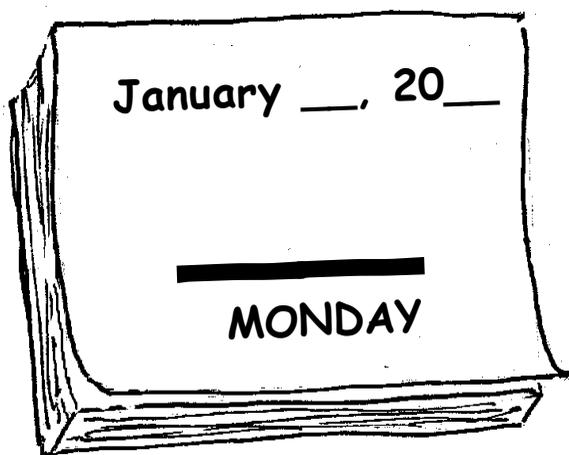
1. Find out more traditions related to the new year. Find out when people started to use a baby to symbolize a new year.

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm>

2. Research this site to find out about decorations for New Year's Day.

<http://www.homeandfamilynetwork.com/holidays/newyears.html>

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

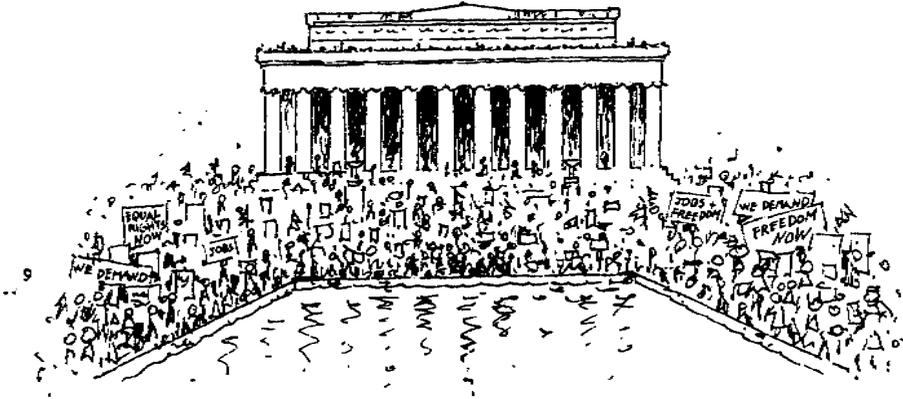


Traditions and Customs

The third Monday in January is a legal holiday to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on January 15th. He was a great civil **rights** leader who fought against **racial discrimination**. He said that people should be judged by their character, and not the color of their skin. He believed in **integration**. He received national attention when he protested the **injustice** of **segregated** buses in Alabama.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered in church **memorial** services, marches, and public ceremonies. People also listen to his speeches, watch TV documentaries, and sing **spirituals** and the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."

In schools, students read about this leader, study his writings and celebrate his memory with special programs. Politicians and performers also participate in celebrations to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

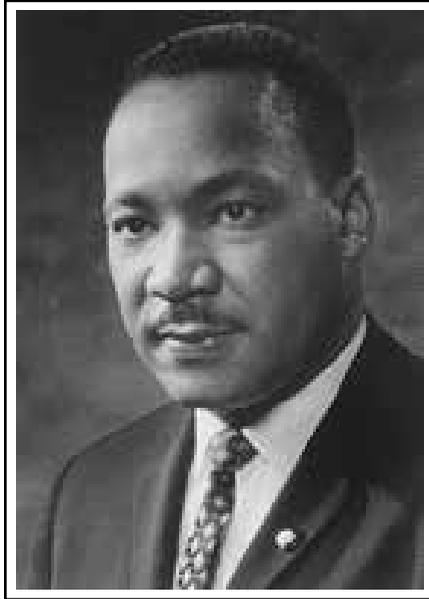


Background

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15th, 1929. His father was a **clergyman**, Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and his mother was Alberta Williams King.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was an excellent student. He entered college at the age of 15. He was interested in history, literature, sociology, and public speaking. He studied black history, religion, and theology. He received his doctor of philosophy degree from Boston University. He became a minister and married Coretta Scott. They had four children. He became the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. King
was given the
Nobel Peace
Prize.
This is the
official Nobel
portrait taken
in 1964.



Martin Luther King, Jr., worked to end segregation of black people. He worked to give civil rights to everyone in the United States. In addition to his civil rights work, he also became a leader of the international human rights movement.

He believed in non-violent methods. In 1963, he gave one of his most famous speeches, "I Have a Dream," in front of the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, D.C. That day he led a peace march of 250,000 people. They wanted to ensure the rights of the Constitution to all people in the United States.

He became famous and was loved and respected by many people all around the world. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Martin Luther King, Jr. died at the age of 39 years. He was killed by an **assassin**. It was a very sad day for the American people and the world.

Suggestions for the Teacher

These readings and exercises can be used in a variety of ways, adapted and modified to fit your teaching situation. Some suggestions are outlined below. In general, the readings and their accompanying exercises may be used either for self-study out of class or for group study in class.

For Self-Study.

If the students are to use this book for out of class self-study only, orient the students to the book and how they are to use it. This can be done in the following way.

1. Go through the Introductory Lesson with the students (See the group study technique for one procedure). You should point out the redundant style of the readings and encourage them to get into the habit of trying to get at the meaning of a word from the context.
2. Go through the exercises with the students. Point out that there is an answer key, but that the next to last exercise does not have answers in the key. You can ask the students to submit their written answers to the last exercise to you on a regular basis, or have them show their answers to a native-speaker friend.
3. Encourage the students to check out one of the web sites.

For Group Study.

The basic technique and the variations described below can be used for any of the passages. You can also, to vary the procedure, do some of the passages as group study and some as self-study.

1. Refer to the table of contents and have the students look at the key words for the passage. Ask them to note which ones they think they know and which ones they're not sure of.
2. Go over the list of key words for pronunciation. You can pronounce the words and simply have the students repeat them or have the students read them aloud.
3. *Option A.* Have the students read the entire passage silently. Encourage them to try to grasp the meaning from the context.
Option B. Have the students take turns reading the passage aloud. Note any pronunciation problems and correct them after everybody has read.
Option C. You read the passage aloud while the students listen. This option can be done twice. First the students listen with their books closed; then when you read it the second time they can follow along in their books.
4. Have the students do the exercises individually. When they have finished you can ask for questions and clarify problems.
5. The next to last exercise asks students to use their own words and there are no answers at the back of the book. You can use this exercise as a test by having the students write out their sentences on a separate sheet of paper and hand them in to you.
6. If your students have access to the Internet, the Internet activity can be a useful way to expand on the information and vocabulary in the text.

General Suggestions

1. The sequence of readings in this book follows the solar calendar. Although the introductory reading is a good place to begin working with the book, you may want to begin with the holiday that is most imminent, or you may want to ask your students to choose readings which interest them.
2. Divide the class into three groups. Each group does only one of the readings. Then each group explains its passage to the other two groups, putting the key words on the board as it explains.
3. Prepare a double set of 3x5 index cards. Each key word is written on two different cards. For each selection there are 10 different words. Shuffle the 20 cards well and write the numbers 1-20 on the back. Place all the cards on the floor with only the numbers showing. Then in turns the students try to locate the matching pairs by calling out two numbers (see "Matched Pairs" in *Index Card Games for ESL*, Pro Lingua Associates).
4. For review, put the key words from several selections on 3x5 index cards. Divide the class into two teams and have a contest to see which team can use the most words correctly in sentences.
5. Supplement the readings with further cultural exploration:
 - a. Ask the students to interview Americans and then compare notes.
 - b. Use the material appended to this book to teach songs and to provide a focus for discussions.

Derrick Wallace, 12, a member of the U.S. Navy League Cadet Corps, proudly carries the flag in a parade in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Credit AP/WWP H Rumph, Jr

- c. Plan appropriate in-class holiday observances, or participate in school or public ceremonies. Alternatively, plan a party or celebration. Have the students invite friends or give the party for children or for senior citizens. Co-host the party with a church or civic group.
 - d. Discuss food that is traditional for each holiday. Bring in favorite recipes and menus, and help the students prepare a holiday meal.
6. Students generally enjoy working together in pairs.

Key Word Index

(The number indicates the number of the lesson the word appears in – see Contents p. v)

achieve 2	convince 12	focus 19	observe 15	route 12
admit 5	costume 13	force 10	occur 20	scary 13
advertise 14	courage 15	free 10	opportunity 8	segregate 3
affection 4	creativity 19	gather 20	organize 10	service 9
ancestor 19	crowd 2	get rid of 20	origin 9	share 17
ancient 2	crude 12	get together 8	ornaments 17	solution 11
anniversary 20	dawn 20	ghost 13	parade 7	souvenir 18
annual 16	debate 14	gift 7	participate 6	sparkle 17
appropriate 18	declare 10	goal 2	patriotic 9	spiritual 3
assassin 3	decorate 4	grave 9	pennant 6	spouse 4
atone 20	dedicated 15	greeting card 7	perform 10	starvation 16
balloon 16	defend 19	harvest 16	persuade 11	strike 11
basket 7	descent 6	heritage 19	portrait 5	superstition 1
benefit 9	disabled 9	hire 11	prayer 20	survive 16
blessing 16	discrimination 3	holy 13	present 19	swear in 10
bury 15	display 17	honor 15	pride 19	sweetheart 4
bystander 6	donation 17	humorous 4	privacy 14	symbol 7
calendar 1	duty 14	ideal 5	proclaim 8	thought 8
campaign 14	dyed 7	independence 5	prosperity 2	tie 12
candidate 14	elaborate 2	injustice 3	racial 3	toast 2
candle 18	elderly 16	integrate 3	raise 8	traditional 18
capture 6	elect 5	invitation 18	rebirth 7	tragedy 9
carve 13	election 14	legal 1	recognize 10	treat 13
cater 18	embrace 2	legend 6	refreshments 18	trick 13
celebrate 1	enact 15	lunar 19	refuse 5	twice 19
celebrity 6	encourage 12	major 20	registration 14	unanimously 5
cemetery 9	establish 8	memorial 3	religious 1	union 11
ceremony 15	estimate 6	memories 8	remember 15	unite 5
character 13	evil 13	merchant 4	renewal 7	vacation 17
charity 18	exchange 17	message 11	repentance 20	value 8
clergyman 3	expedition 12	minimum 11	representation 10	veteran 9
coincide 7	faith 16	miracle 6	require 11	volunteer 17
collect 13	farewell 19	missing 15	reserve 18	vote 14
comfort 12	fast 20	monument 15	resolution 2	wages 11
commemorate 1	favorite 17	naturalization 10	respect 8	wish 18
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conflict 5	festival 4	obey 10	rights 3	yearly 7
contribution 12	finance 12		role 8	
convert 6	float 2		romance 4	