

Class: IX-X

Celebrating New Year

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)



A. New Years around the World



Buddhist New Year

The celebration of the Buddhist New Year is an occasion of great joy. People squirt water on whomever they meet in the streets, regardless of whether it is a friend or a stranger. Homage is paid to the various statues of the Buddha, which are ceremonially bathed.



Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year "Yuan Tan" takes place between January 21st and February 20th. The exact date is fixed by the lunar calendar. In cities spectacular processions take place. They clean their houses to rid them of last year's bad luck before the celebrations begin. There are street parades where thousands of people line the streets to watch the procession in which dancing dragons and lions weave their way through the crowded streets.

Hindu New Year

The Hindu New Year is celebrated differently in different parts of the country. The Hindus of Gujarat, in western India, celebrate the New Year at the end of October, at the same time as the Indian festival of Diwali. For the Diwali celebration, small oil lamps are lit along the rooftops. In northern India, people wear flowers to celebrate the New Year. Hindus in central India display orange flags at the top of buildings. In southern India, mothers put food, flowers, and small gifts on a special tray. On New Year's morning, children must keep their eyes shut until they have been led to the tray.

English New Year

In England crowds of people gather in Trafalgar square, and Piccadilly Circus as well as stand around to hear the chimes of London's Big Ben which announces the arrival of the New Year. On New Year's Day, children rise early to make the rounds to their neighbours singing songs and are given coins, mince pies, apple pies and other sweets for singing. Adults also participate in the celebrations by having parties and making up their minds (resolutions) about what they will do in the new year.

B. Islamic New Year

Choose the best answer from the text and check your answer with **Suggested Answers** given in Section D.

The Muslims have their own calendar which is based on the cycles of the moon. The Islamic New Year, Al-Hijra, is (1) celebration / celebrated by Muslims on Muharram, the first day of the first (2) monthly / month in the Islamic Calendar. The (3) exact / exactly day changes every year because the Islamic lunar year is 11 to 12 days shorter than the solar (Western) year. This (4) means / meaning that in 2008, there were two Islamic New Years - one on January 9th and (5) another / other on December 29th. It also means that New Year's Day for Muslims can be in the middle of winter (6) or / nor in the middle of summer. The exact date of the next Al-Hijra is not yet known. It is only (7) prediction / predicted after there is a (8) sighting / sightseeing of the new moon.



C. New Year's Resolutions

Dear Learners, here are some expressions with which we can talk about our New Year's resolution.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) I will (a promise!) | 2) I am going to (intention) |
| 3) I would like to | 4) I am thinking about |
| 5) I will not | 6) I intend to |
| 7) I've decided to | 8) I'm planning to |
| 9) I promise to | |

Examples:

I promise to listen to my teacher.
I have decided to help my parents.
I am going to do well in school.

Now, you just take a look on the above expressions and check whether you can make your own resolutions.

D. Suggested Answers for Section B:

- 1) celebrated
- 2) month
- 3) exact
- 4) means
- 5) another
- 6) or
- 7) predicted
- 8) sighting

E. New year greetings around the world.

Bangla : *Shuvo Naba Barsha*
Chinese : *Chu Shen*
French : *Bonne Annee*
Hindi : *Niya Saal Moobaarak Ho*
Russian : *S Novim Godom*
Arabic : *Kul 'aam U Antum Salimoun*
Spanish : *Feliz Ano Neuvo*

F. Celebrating Bangla New Year

Dhaka along with other regions in Bangladesh also takes part in the New Year celebrations (**Nobo Borsho**) with all interest and excitement. People of Dhaka city gather early in the morning at Ramna Park where the Chayanaut artistes give a beautiful start to the day with Tagore's songs, " Esho, he Boishakh, Esho Esho". The Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Udichi and different other organizations welcome the Nabo Borsho with festive arrangements. Parades and colorful processions are organized by the students.



This day is also considered auspicious for starting new ventures and businesses. New account books are purchased by the Bengali business men and traders. It is called '**Halkhata**'. **Boishakhi fairs** are arranged in many parts of the country. Traditional handicrafts, cosmetics, agricultural products, toys, as well as various kinds of food and sweets are sold at these fairs. The fairs also provide entertainment with cockfights, bull races, boat racing and flying pigeons. '**Panta-Ilish**', 'kholi-moori' and other traditional foods become the menu of the urban people who go there to participate in the celebration. Men wear panjabi, pajamas and women wear white sarees with red embroidery. **Boi-Sa-Bi**, a day of a wide variety of festivities is observed by the ethnic minority in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on the last day of Choitro. The day is a public holiday in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Now, imagine that you're talking to a foreigner who wants to know about the following words. Can you explain them to the foreigner?

Nobo Borsho, Halkhata, Boishakhi fair, Panta-Ilish, Boi-Sa-Bi

Learning Outcomes: Expressing future intentions, inferring meaning.

Note: Today's lesson is connected with English For Today, IX-X
Unit-7, Lesson-9.

Vitamins are an essential part of a healthy diet

Vitamins, natural substances found in plants and animals, are known as essential nutrients for human body. There are six major types of vitamins which are Vitamin A, B, C, D, E and K and each serves a different and positive purpose in our body. These vitamins are vital for healthy growth and enhance body and brain functioning.

Let us have adequate vitamins in our diet and stay healthy.

