

Unit

1

Red Letter Days

WARM-UP

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the title of the unit and ask them to tell you what they think it means. (The phrase *red letter day* means a special day. The phrase has existed in English since the 18th century and has its origins in the way people used to mark special days in red on their calendar.)
- Focus students' attention on the pictures. Ask them to describe what they see.
- Ask students to name the four seasons which are pictured.

Answers

A Spring B Summer C Autumn D Winter

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Read the sentences aloud to students or nominate confident students to read the sentences aloud. Ask students to choose the sentence which best describes their feelings about winter. Encourage them to write their own sentences if there's none matches their opinions.
- Conduct class feedback. Generate as much discussion as possible about which seasons students prefer. Ask students what they like doing in winter.

Possible answers

I like the slower pace of life during winter time.

I hate winter. The cold in winter is annoying.

Winter makes me want to hibernate! It's so dark and gloomy.

教学
小贴士

利用图片鼓励学生尽可能多用英语表达。可以让学生说说这四张图片是否很好地概括了四季的主要特点，他们又会用怎样的图像来诠释这四个季节。

以文化比较为目的，可以在阅读导入阶段请学生思考中国冬天的传统节日及习俗，如从冬至日开始的“数九（冬九九）”和立春日的迎春活动。也可以在阅读后请学生比较中外相似节日的庆祝形式及其异同，与文章最后一段相呼应，最终让学生理解：虽然各地迎春的风俗不同，文化不同，庆祝形式不同，但是却有着相似的意义，即送走黑夜与寒冷，企盼温暖与光明。

READING FOR LEARNING

More Information

The Shetland Islands 设得兰群岛

The Shetland Islands are a Scottish sub-arctic island group which lies in the northeast of Britain. The islands' northerly latitude makes the winters very dark and severe. As a result of this, all of the islanders look forward to the end of winter. January's fire festival is one of the most famous farewell-to-winter celebrations in the world. The festival has a strong Viking flavour, and reflects the islands' history.

Busójárás 匈牙利狂欢节

The festival of Busójárás in Hungary looks very different at first glance. The winters the people of Hungary experience are also severe, but in a different way. Instead of darkness and strong winds, the winters here are very cold with a lot of snow. Instead of dressing up as Vikings, the local people wear masks which make them look like big furry beasts.

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Read the advice aloud in the skill box “Matching pictures to text” to students.

- Focus students' attention on the title of the blog post and the photos.
- Read the question aloud to your class. Organise students into pairs and challenge them to see who can be the first to find the items in the photos. Conduct class feedback.
- Ask students to predict what they think the text will be about. Generate as much language as possible and write students' suggestions on the board.

Answers

A—burning boat B—coffin C—fiery torch D—mask

Language Bank

1 Towns and villages all over Europe celebrate the end of these sad, grey months with “farewell-to-winter” festivals.

欧洲的城镇和村庄都会通过各种“告别冬天”的节日来庆祝连续数月令人伤感的灰暗日子的结束。

celebrate: v. do something enjoyable in order to show that an occasion or event is special 庆祝; 祝贺

e.g. Tom celebrated his 24th birthday two days ago.

汤姆两天前庆祝了他的 24 岁生日。

He returned home each year to celebrate Christmas and New Year with his family.

他每年都回家和家人一起欢度圣诞和新年。

2 I'm always happy to say farewell to my least favourite season!

对我最不喜欢的季节说再见，我总是很开心！

1) least 是 little 的最高级，修饰 favourite，表示“（某一特性）最少的”。它经常用在短语 at least 中，表示“至少”。

e.g. She is one of my least favourite actresses.

她是最不喜欢的女演员之一。

At least 200 people died in the air crash.

至少 200 人在此次空难中丧生。

2) say farewell to: say goodbye to someone or something 和……道别

e.g. It seems everyone should make his own choice when he says farewell to college life.

告别大学生活时，每个人似乎都该要作出自己的决定了。

3 With months of almost total darkness, strong winds and heavy rain, everyone looks forward to spring.

由于连续数月里天空几乎完全黑暗，再加上狂风暴雨的天气，所有人都期盼着春天的到来。

1) with 在这里表示“由于；因为”。

e.g. With the win, the US reclaimed the cup for the first time since 1985.

这次胜利使美国队自 1985 年后第一次重获此杯。

He is in the hospital with fever.

他因为发烧住院了。

2) look forward to: expect or want something to happen 期盼；期待

e.g. John was looking forward to working with the new manager.

约翰很期待和新任经理共事。

4 This is only the beginning of the festival though—a night and a day of partying follows and the next day is a local holiday.

然而，这仅仅是节日庆祝的开始——接下来是一天一夜的聚会活动，第二天是当地的公休日。

though 在这里为副词，意为“然而；不过”，一般用于句末。

e.g. It's hard work; I enjoy it though.

工作很辛苦，可是我乐意干。

Our team lost. It was a good game though.

我们队输了，但这是一场很好的比赛。

5 Every year at this festival, the people of Mohács get dressed up in scary masks and walk through the town.

每年的这个节日，莫哈奇镇上的人们都会戴上吓人的面具，乔装打扮一番后在小镇上散步。

1) get dressed up: someone is wearing special clothes in order to disguise oneself or look more formal than usual 装扮成……的；穿上盛装的

e.g. On Halloween, children get dressed up and then knock on their neighbour's doors, shouting "trick or treat".

万圣节的时候，孩子们会盛装打扮之后敲邻居家的门，大喊“不给糖就捣乱”。

2) get 在这里为系动词 (linking verb)，后接形容词或动词的过去分词。类似用法的短语还有 get married, get used to, get changed 等等。

e.g. They convinced themselves that life would be better after they got married.

他们坚信结婚后生活会更美好。

6 They entertain and sometimes try to frighten the visiting crowds.

他们会娱乐观众，有时也会试图吓唬他们。

entertain: v.

- 1) give a performance that people enjoy 使快乐；娱乐
e.g. To break the silence, he told a joke to entertain us.
 为打破沉默，他讲了一个笑话逗我们开心。
- 2) receive someone as a guest and give them food and drink or other forms of enjoyment 招待；款待
e.g. I don't like to entertain guests anymore.
 我再也不想招待客人了。

7 Everyone cheers as it floats away.

当棺材漂走时，大家都欢呼雀跃。

float: v.

- 1) rest or move slowly on the surface of a liquid and not sink 漂；浮
e.g. A fresh egg will sink and an old egg will float.
 新鲜鸡蛋会沉下去而不新鲜的会浮上来。
- 2) place something or make it move on the surface of a liquid (使)漂浮；(使)浮动
e.g. They'll spend some time floating little paper boats on the lake.
 他们打算花些时间在湖上放小纸船玩。

8 If so, let me know—I'd love to hear about them.

如果参加过，请告诉我——我很想听听。

if so 和 if not 通常指两种相反的情况：

- 1) if so 指如果前面所说的都成立，意为“如果是那样的话”。
e.g. I may be free this evening. If so, I'll come round and see you.
 今晚我可能有空。要是有空，我会过来看你。
If so, your points of view are bound to conflict with his.
 如果这样的话，你的观点一定会和他的相冲突。
- 2) if not 指后面跟的从句与前面提到的情况相反，意为“如果不这样的话”。
e.g. I might see you tomorrow. If not, then it'll be Saturday.
 我可能明天去看你。如果不是明天，那就是周六。
 有时 not 还可修饰另一个词语。
e.g. If not today, tomorrow I'm sure you'll get an answer.
 如果今天得不到回信，明天准能得到。

3) 注意 if so 与 if not 连用的情形。

e.g. He may be busy. If so, I'll call later. If not, can I see him now?

他要是正忙，我就以后再来看访。要是他不忙，我可以现在见他吗？

Translation

告别冬天的节日：最精彩的两个

你难道不讨厌冬天吗？我可是讨厌——因为冬天又冷又黑，而且时间太长了！好像不只我一个人这么想。全欧洲的城镇与村庄都会通过各种“告别冬天”的节日来庆祝连续数月令人伤感的灰暗日子的结束。在这些盛大的聚会上，人们相聚在一起欢送寒冷，喜迎更温暖、更晴朗的日子到来。对我最不喜欢的季节说再见，我总是很开心！下面是我旅行中经历过的最精彩的两个“告别冬天”的节日。

设得兰群岛圣火节

对于生活在苏格兰北部设得兰群岛的人们来说，冬天十分难熬。由于连续数月里天空几乎完全黑暗，再加上狂风暴雨，所有人都期盼着春天的到来。举世闻名的篝火节——苏格兰设得兰群岛圣火节在每年的1月末举行，设得兰群岛的居民要花整整一年时间为圣火节作准备。男人们都留起长胡子，打扮成维京人，手持燃烧的火把穿过街道。他们将火把扔上一艘漂亮的木船，然后所有人都围着大火唱歌，欢呼，向冬天告别。不过，这仅仅是节日庆祝的开始——接下来是一天一夜的纵情狂欢，第二天是当地的公休日。

匈牙利狂欢节

如果你二月去匈牙利的莫哈奇小镇旅游，你将看到欧洲最令人激动、最多姿多彩的节日之一。每年的这个节日，莫哈奇镇上的人们会戴着吓人的面具，乔装打扮一番后在小镇上散步。他们会娱乐观众，有时也会试图吓唬他们。人们还将一口棺材推上街道，最后推进河里。当棺材漂走时，大家都欢呼雀跃。谁在棺材里面呢？当然是冬天！聚会活动会持续多日——活动里有音乐，有舞蹈，还有很多路边摊兜售可口热乎的美食。

你参加过告别冬天的节日吗？如果参加过，请告诉我——我很想听听。

Reading and Understanding

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Give students a few minutes to read the text. Ask them whether or not their predictions were correct.
- Focus students' attention on the photos in Task 1 and on the sentences in this task. Ask students to read the sentences carefully and match them to the photos. Check the answers orally.
- Ask students to complete the sentences so that they can describe the photos.
- Conduct class feedback.

Answers

- 1—D scary
- 2—A farewell
- 3—B pushed through
- 4—C Vikings; fiery torches

教学小贴士

在这四幅图画中，学生对“棺材”的感受会因人而异，教师可以在了解学生感受的同时根据学情引导学生思考中西方丧葬文化的异同或者对死亡的认识。另外，可同时处理 Task 4 第 2 题中关于棺材的象征意义。

Task 3

Teaching steps

- Read the questions aloud to students and ask them to find the answers in the text.
- Allow students to check their answers with a partner before collecting answers around the class.

Answers

- 1 It's freezing, dark and far too long.
- 2 They are dark, windy and rainy.
- 3 Two days.
- 4 They get dressed up in scary masks and walk through the town.
- 5 It is winter.

Task 4

Teaching steps

- Give students a few minutes to read the questions and answers.
- Organise students into pairs. Allow them to discuss with each other and to choose the best answer to each question.
- Conduct class feedback.

Answers

1 A 2 C 3 A

Vocabulary Focus

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the adjectives in the circle and nominate students to read them aloud. Drill pronunciation, checking that students understand the meanings of the words.
- Ask students to cross out the nouns which the adjectives do not normally describe. Do the first one together as an example. Monitor as students complete the task.
- Conduct class feedback.

Answers

1 animal 2 bird 3 heat 4 hair 5 subject 6 garden

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Read the words in the boxes aloud to students, drilling pronunciation chorally and individually.
- Ask students to complete the sentences with the words from the boxes.
- Check the answers around the class.

Answers

1 torch 2 stalls 3 farewell 4 celebration 5 entertains 6 float

Task 3

Teaching steps

- Ask students what they know about Sweden. (It is a Scandinavian country in Northern

Europe which borders Norway and Finland.)

- Tell students that they are going to read about a Swedish festival. Focus students' attention on the words in the boxes and drill their pronunciation.
- Give students a few minutes to read the text and fill in the gaps with the words from the boxes. Allow them to check their answers with a partner before conducting class feedback.

Answers

1 entertain 2 northerly 3 celebrated 4 festival 5 freezing

Extra Activity!

- Play a quick vocabulary game with students on the subject of "Red Letter Days".
- Organise students into small groups of four or five. Tell students that you are going to give them a topic-related category.
- Students should then race with their team to think of five words or phrases which fit this category and they should all write them down.
- When everyone in the team has written their words down, they should put their hands up.
- The first team to put their hands up (with all good answers) wins a point. Repeat about five or six times.
- Possible categories:
Birthday: candle, cake, party, balloon, etc.
Valentine's Day: heart, flower, romance, candlelit meal, etc.
Spring Festival: lantern, red envelope, party, procession, etc.

Grammar Focus: Passive Voice (被动语态)

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Ask students to read the three comments. Ask them what kind of festival each comment is describing.
- Ask students to work with a partner to underline the examples of the passive voice.
- Conduct class feedback. Elicit why the passive voice has been used in each case.

Answers

- 1 An enormous straw bear is made and fixed onto a person.
- 2 ... the last days of winter have been celebrated for 500 years!
... all of the children are given sweets to eat.
- 3 ... a bag full of words about winter be set alight and burned.
Lots of pancakes are eaten...

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the sentences. Ask them to put the words and phrases in the correct order. Explain that they then need to complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in brackets. Do the first one as an example if necessary.
- Let students complete the task. Allow them to check their answers with a partner before conducting class feedback.

Answers

- 1 I was woken up by my neighbour's loud music this morning.
- 2 The *Mona Lisa* was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci.
- 3 The *Harry Potter* books were written by J. K. Rowling.
- 4 Birthdays are celebrated in many different ways all around the world.
- 5 Moon cakes are eaten at the Mid-Autumn Festival in China.

Task 3

Teaching steps

- Ask students to think about again how the passive voice present simple is formed: is/are+past participle. Elicit how the passive voice past simple is formed: was/were+past participle.
- Do the first sentence together with students as an example. Elicit that the sentence is about past and about a singular subject, so they will need to use the auxiliary verb *was*.
- Students should complete the rest of the sentences alone. Allow them to check their work with a partner before conducting class feedback.

Answers

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 was born | 2 is spoken | 3 are filled | 4 are dressed |
| 5 is played | 6 is dancing | 7 be sold | |

Extra
Activity!

- Explain that the passive voice is often used in general knowledge quizzes. Write the following quiz questions on the board and ask students if they know the answers.
Who was Romeo and Juliet written by? (William Shakespeare)
- Organise students into pairs and ask them to write one quiz question using the passive voice. Monitor as students do this, offering support where necessary.
- Divide the class into two teams. The two teams should take it in turns to ask the other team questions.
- Award points for correct answers. The team with the most points at the end of the quiz is the winner.
- Conduct class feedback at the end of the quiz and address any issues which students are having with the passive voice.

Beyond the Text

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Ask students to read the description.
- Give them a few minutes to think about the answer and jot down some ideas.
- Circulate as students do this, offering support to any student who looks as if they are finding this difficult.

Answers

The Mid-Autumn Festival or the Moon Festival.

教学
小贴士

我国有很多传统的节日在南方和北方的庆祝方式迥然不同，还有一些独具地方色彩或民族特色的节日。所以，在这个环节，可以要求学生尽量发现和解释各种节日文化习俗，如“二月二”、“三月三”等等。

Task 2 and Task 3

Teaching steps

- Ask students to think about their favourite festival and write some ideas down.
- Organise students to work with a partner.
- Let students take it in turns to read their notes aloud. Their partner should listen carefully and try to guess which festival their partner is describing. Once they have guessed which festival their partner is describing, they should suggest words and phrases to add to their partner's list.
- Conduct class feedback.

Possible answers

What to eat: dumplings, fish, pork, beef, chicken, etc.

What to wear: red clothes (to bring good luck)

Special traditions: visit family and friends to wish them a Happy New Year, set off fire works, give children lucky red packets full of money, stay up late, buy new clothes

When to celebrate: these celebrations start on the 30th day of the 12th lunar month of the Chinese calendar

Task 4

Teaching steps

- Organise students into small groups so that they are working with someone who has chosen the same festival as them. Ask them to describe their festival and share the words they have collected.
- Circulate as students complete this task, offering support and helping to generate topic-related language where necessary.
- Nominate a few students to report back on their festival to the rest of the class.

Possible answers

I've chosen the Spring Festival, because it's my favourite celebration. In my family, we usually spend time cleaning the house. We put up red decorations all over the house because red brings good luck.

The most important food during this festival is the meal we have as a family. We usually go to my grandparents' house for this. We eat dumplings, beef and chicken dishes, etc.

A special tradition is giving and getting red envelopes filled with money. At the moment I'm still a student, so my older relatives give me money. When I have a job I will give money to my younger relatives. At the end of the New Year celebrations, there is the festival of lanterns. Lanterns are hung all over the streets—it's really beautiful.

Useful Expressions**Describing food**

We usually eat dumplings.

We have a big family meal together.

It's a good opportunity to enjoy a family feast.

Describing clothes

I like to look my best on this day—I usually go to the hairdresser and buy a new outfit.

I don't wear anything special—maybe warm clothes if I'm going out to watch the procession.

Special traditions

We usually decorate the house.

We always clean the house from top to bottom before the festival.

In my family, we usually exchange gifts.

READING FOR DOING

More Information

Almost every day of the year now comes with its own special theme to celebrate or commemorate. For people who don't find traditional celebrations appealing, there is a Make Your Own Holiday Day (March 26). On this day, you can choose to celebrate Christmas again, or you can name your own festival. Some recent choices have included: The Toenail Cutting Festival and Stop Killing Spiders Day.

Some special days are set up to help people who find everyday life challenging. So there is International Left-Handers Day, where left-handed people gather together to play left-handed games.

Other special days celebrate well-loved films or characters. People all over the world celebrate "Star Wars" Day on May 4 by dressing up as their favourite characters from the film.

Language Bank

1 Check out our bizarre awareness days—we humans like to celebrate the strangest things!

看一看我们的各种稀奇古怪的节日吧——我们人类就喜欢庆贺那些最奇怪的事情!

1) *bizarre*: *adj.* strange and difficult to explain 稀奇古怪的, 奇异的

e.g. bizarre behaviour 古怪的行为

a really bizarre character 十分古怪的性格

2) *awareness day*: a date usually set by a major organisation or government to commemorate a public health or ethical cause of importance on a national or international level 纪念日; 节日

e.g. World Autism Awareness Day 世界自闭症关注日(4月2日)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 认识虐待老年人问题世界日(6月15日)

2 It celebrates our beloved pets while promoting the pet fashion industry.

我们为心爱的宠物庆祝节日, 同时也推动了宠物时装业的发展。

在含有状语从句的复合句中, 若从句的主语为 *it* 或与主句的主语相同, 且在谓语中含有 *be* 时, 常省略从句的主语和 *be*。包括:

- 由 *when, while, once, after, before, whenever* 等引导的时间状语从句;
- 由 *if, unless* 引导的条件状语从句;
- 由 *though, even if, even though* 引导的让步状语从句;
- 由 *as though, as if, as* 引导的方式状语从句;
- 由 *wherever* 引导的地点状语从句。

e.g. When in Beijing, I paid a visit to the Summer Palace.

我在北京时去了颐和园。

Unless repaired, the machine is of no use.

除非修好这个机器, 否则它一点用处也没有。

Though lacking money, his parents managed to send him to university.

尽管缺钱, 他的父母还是尽力送他上了大学。

3 Random Acts of Kindness Day: 17 February

随意行善日: 2月17日

- 1) random: *adj.* chosen or happening without any particular method, pattern, or purpose 任意的；随机的

e.g. The competitors will be subject to random drug testing.

参赛者要接受随机药检。

- 2) at random 随机地；偶然地

e.g. We received several answers, and we picked one at random.

我们收到了一些答复，并从中随机挑选了一个。

4 Helping an old person cross a busy road and visiting a sick person in their own home are small acts, but they can really make a difference.

帮助老人穿过繁忙的马路，去病人家里探视，这些都是小小的善举，但却真正能发挥重要作用。

make a difference: have an important effect on something, especially a good effect 起(重要)作用；有影响

e.g. A little knowledge can make a difference at a time of death.

生死之际，一点小知识可以发挥重要作用。

What you have told me may make a difference to my own position.

你告诉我的一切，可能影响我自己的立场。

5 Have you ever wondered why some people press harder on the remote control when the batteries are dying?

你想知道，为什么有的人在遥控器快没电的时候会更使劲地按？

die: *v.* stop working 非正式用法，指“(机器或设备)完全停止运行”。

e.g. The electric train stopped when the batteries died.

电池组一断电，电车就停了。

Suddenly, the engine coughed, spluttered and died.

发动机突然咔咔地响着，发出一阵噼啪声，接着就彻底熄火了。

Translation

不只是另一天

又是一个无聊的周一？绝对不是——因为每天都应该是特别的。看一看我们的各种稀奇古怪的节日吧——我们人类就喜欢庆贺那些最奇怪的事情！

全国宠物装扮日：1月14日

为什么不给你的狗狗穿上可爱的雨衣和靴子来表示你对它的关心呢？一位动物行为学家创建了这个特殊的节日。我们为心爱的宠物庆祝节日，同时也推动了宠物时装业的发展。如果你的宠物没有衣服，你也不用担心——一条简单的彩带就能使它们感到与众不同。

随意行善日：2月17日

你上一次毫无理由地行善是什么时候？帮助老人穿过繁忙的马路，去病人家里探视，这些都是小小的善举，但却真正能发挥重要作用。看看2月17日这一天，你能够做多少善事，然后享受内心那份美好而温暖的感觉吧。

全国冰淇淋日：7月18日

这个节日是美国前总统罗纳德·里根的主意。里根总统认为冰淇淋有益健康又美味可口，应该有属于它自己的特殊庆祝日。最后，他觉得一天不够，便将整个7月变成了全国冰淇淋月！当然，好东西也不能吃太多，不是吗？

问愚蠢问题日：9月28日

你想知道，为什么有的人在遥控器快没电的时候会更使劲地按？在9月28日这一天你就可以问问。问愚蠢问题日是20世纪80年代由一群在校教师设立的。他们这样做也许是为了集中在一天回答完学生所有稀奇古怪的问题，而不用花整整一年来应付这件事。

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the title of the text and the photos. Ask students if they can predict what the special days are about without reading the text.
- Give students a few minutes to read the text.
- When students have read the text, direct their attention to the phrases and the meanings. Explain that students need to match the phrases in italics to their meanings. Do the first one together as an example. Encourage students to find the phrases in the text in order to help them guess the meanings by context.
- Allow students enough time to match the phrases and meanings. Check the answers orally.

Answers

1—e 2—d 3—a 4—b 5—c

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the conversation.
- Ask students to complete the conversation with the words. Monitor as students do this, offering support where necessary.
- Nominate two confident students to perform the conversation to the rest of the class.
- Ask students to tell you what Ella thinks of Dress Up Your Pet Day. (She thinks it is unfair to the animals.) Ask students whether they agree with Ella and encourage them to give reasons for their answers.

Answers

(1) boots (2) weird (3) cute (4) ribbon (5) beloved

Task 3

Teaching steps

- Read the questions aloud to students. Ask them to read the text again and answer the questions.
- Conduct class feedback.

Answers

- 1 National Ice Cream Day.
- 2 Ask a Stupid Question Day.
- 3 Dress Up Your Pet Day.
- 4 Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Extra Activity!

- Ask students to choose three of the words they have learned and write true sentences about themselves.
e.g. My mum cooked dumplings last night and had too much of a good thing.
I had a really tough time when my grandmother was ill last month.
My baby cousin is only three—she's very cute!
- Collect the sentences in and choose a few to read out to your class. Students should listen and try to guess who wrote each sentence.

Task 4

Teaching steps

- Ask students to tell you which day they prefer. Go around the class, asking students to tell you their preferences and encouraging them to give reasons for their answers.
- Tell students that they are going to make a poster for one of the days they have read about.
- Work through the steps one by one. Organise students to work with a partner. They should decide on their choices and establish what people should know about their day.
- Ask students to write sentences about the day they have chosen. Circulate as students do this, offering support where necessary. Nominate a couple of students to read their sentences aloud to the rest of the class.
- Distribute paper and pens/coloured pencils to students. Tell them that they are now ready to make their posters. Remind them to include the most important information on their posters.
- Ask a few students to share and talk about their posters. In larger classes, organise students into groups of four or five. Ask them to take it in turns to talk about their posters.
- Choose the best posters to decorate your classroom.

Model answers

18 July is National Ice Cream Day: the tastiest day of the year

Join in the **COOL FUN** on one of the hottest days of summer.

Here's how:

- Get together with your friends and go out for an ice cream.
- Turn your home into an ice cream café. Invite all your friends.
- Make your own delicious ice cream by mixing frozen fruit and double cream.
- Buy as much ice cream as you can afford. Put it in the freezer and enjoy ice cream all summer long.

GUIDED WRITING

A Greetings Card for a Special Day (节日贺卡)

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Check that students understand what a greetings card is. Ask them when they would send a greetings card. Elicit that we usually send cards to friends and relatives on special days, such as birthdays, etc.
- Ask students to read the greetings card messages and match them to the correct special days.
- Conduct class feedback. Ask students what they know about the different celebrations which are mentioned.

Answers

1—d 2—c 3—b 4—e 5—a

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the words and phrases in the boxes.
- Direct students' attention to the greetings cards. Ask them to complete the cards with words from the boxes.
- Check the answers around the class.

Answers

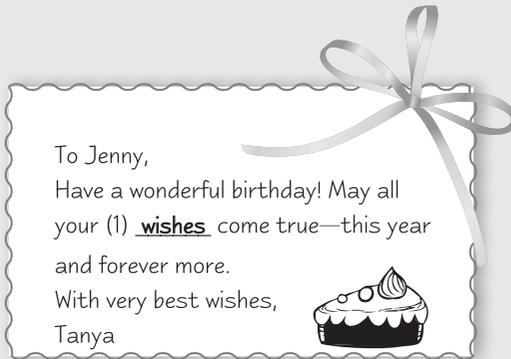
1 wishes 2 Congratulations on 3 lovely
4 Merry 5 Thanks 6 All

Task 3

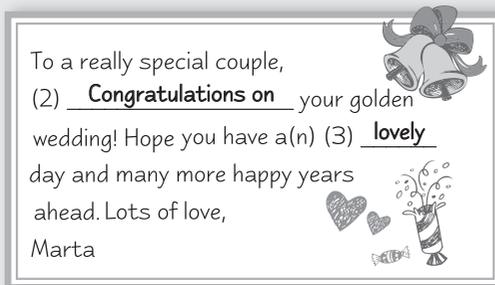
Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the greetings cards from Task 2.
- Ask them to decide which special days they have been written for.
- Allow students to check their answers with a partner.
- Conduct class feedback.

Answers



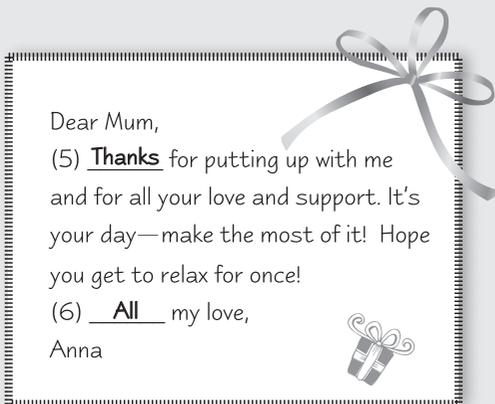
→ Birthday



→ Wedding anniversary



→ Christmas and New Year



→ Mother's Day

Task 4

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the two halves of the sentences.
- Ask students to match the two halves to complete each sentence.
- Ask students to read their sentences to a partner and discuss who is writing to whom.
- Conduct class feedback.

Possible answers

- 1—e (from a lover to his/her loved one)
- 2—c (from one friend to another)
- 3—d (between friends or from a child to a parent)
- 4—a (to friends who are getting married)
- 5—b (from a child to his/her parents)

Task 5

Teaching steps

- Ask students to choose a special day. They should write a greetings card to a friend using language from the previous tasks and the writing profile to help them.
- Ask students to decorate their cards. Display the best ones on your classroom wall.

Model answers

To a very special couple,
 Wishing you every happiness on your wedding anniversary. Hope you have a wonderful day!
 All my love,
 Natalie

AUDIO/VIDEO LAB

Audio

Task 1

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the photos. Ask them to describe what they see and predict which special day they are going to learn about. (Valentine's Day.)
- Ask them whether they think that single people enjoy Valentine's Day or not and let

them find a partner who shares their opinions. Monitor as students discuss the question, offering support where necessary.

- Nominate a few students to share their ideas with the rest of the class.
- Ask students to listen to the audio. After they have finished, ask them if their predictions were correct. Were they surprised by what they heard?

Possible answers

I don't think that single people can enjoy Valentine's Day. They probably feel lonely and sad because they don't have a special person who will send flowers or take them somewhere romantic.

Task 2

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the questions. Ask them to listen again and fill in the gaps.
- Allow students to check their answers with a partner before conducting class feedback.

Answers

(1) celebration (2) even if (3) just in case (4) wonderful (5) attached

Task 3

Teaching steps

- Focus students' attention on the table and the questions in it.
- Read the advice in the skill box "Taking notes while listening" together.
- Play the audio again (twice if necessary) and allow them to fill in the table.
- Organise students into small groups and allow them to check their answers.
- Conduct class feedback.

Possible answers

	Plans for Valentine's Day
Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going out and having an amazing time. • With a group of friends who are also single. • Doesn't want to sit at home crying because she doesn't have a boyfriend.
Dan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> and eating pizza, not answering the phone—he doesn't want to speak to his mum. • His mum's always asking why he doesn't have a girlfriend.
Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to the cinema. • Watching a romantic comedy and having a nice normal day. • With a group of friends.

Extra
Activity!

- Write the following quote from the audio on the board:
*I don't need greetings card companies to tell me when to celebrate—
life is wonderful and every day should be a celebration!*
- Organise students into pairs. Ask them to decide whether or not they agree with this opinion, and give a reason for their answers.
- Bring the class together. Generate discussion by asking questions.
*e.g. Are celebrations too commercial?
Should we concentrate on making every day special?
Do celebrations put pressure on people who do not have families?*

Task 4

Teaching steps

- Read the question aloud to students.
- Organise students into small groups and ask them to discuss their ideas.
- Nominate a few students to report back on their groups' ideas.

Possible answers

I think that festivals and special days can be really tough for some people. For example, some people live alone and have no family nearby. They have no one to celebrate with and enjoy a nice meal with. Other people don't have enough money to spend on special food, clothes and presents. Therefore, festivals and celebrations can be quite difficult for them.

Script

Radio host: Hello and welcome to this morning's programme. It is, as I'm sure you know, a special day today. Valentine's Day is the most romantic celebration of the year for happy couples, but it is a lonely non-event for singletons. So, we've asked all you single people to phone in and tell us about your plans for the day. We have Lisa on the line now. Hi, Lisa! What will you be doing this evening?

Lisa: Well, I'll be going out with a group of friends who are also single and we'll be having an absolutely amazing time. Thank you very much! I'm certainly not going to sit at home crying about not having a boyfriend, even if that's what everyone else wants me to do!

Radio host: Sounds like a great plan, Lisa! Have fun. Now, next up we have Dan. What are your plans, Dan?

Dan: I've got the box set of *The Big Bang Theory* and I'm planning on phoning for my favourite kind of pizza to go with it! I will not be answering the phone though just in case it's my mum! She likes to use Valentine's Day as an excuse to ask me endless questions about why I don't have a girlfriend, when I'm thinking of getting married... Nightmare!

Radio host: I know how you feel, Dan! Enjoy your night. And finally we have Jane on the line. Jane, what will you be doing this Valentine's Day?

Jane: Hi. I'm single, yes, but I'm not going to let that ruin my day. I don't need greetings card companies to tell me when to celebrate. Life is wonderful and every day should be a celebration! I'm planning a nice, normal day. I'm going to the cinema tonight with a group of friends to see the new romantic comedy!

Radio host: Thank you to all those who phoned in. Now whether you're single or happily attached, this song is for you.

Video

Task 5

Teaching steps

- Write "dragon boat race" on the board.
- Organise students into pairs and ask them to list what they already know about this festival.
- Conduct class feedback. Generate as much language and discussion as possible, focusing students' attention on the pictures.

Task 6

Teaching steps

- Give students a few minutes to read the questions and answers. Play the video, twice if necessary.
- Check the answers around the class.

Answers

1 A 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 C

教学
小贴士

本课涉及了中外的各种节日，教师可以引导学生重新回顾和总结这些节日，并请学生进一步思考几个问题，让学生在思考中了解节日文化的内涵：1. 节日的意义；2. 我国节日中你最喜欢哪一个？为什么？3. 你对我国节日庆祝形式有什么期待？

Script

Over 200 teams, with more than 4,000 paddlers took part in the annual dragon boat races at Hong Kong's Stanley Beach on June 19th.

Many dressed up in eye-catching costumes and hats, including some rather unusual outfits.

Preparation for the races involved energetic warm-ups and chanting. And supporters cheered, creating an exciting atmosphere along the beach.

The Dragon Boat Festival is a common name for the Tuen Ng Festival, which is a traditional Chinese celebration held on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendar. It is a public holiday in Hong Kong and commemorates the death of a popular Chinese national hero, Qu Yuan, who drowned himself over 2,000 years ago to protest against a corrupt government.

Legend says that people attempted to rescue him by beating drums to scare fish away and threw dumplings into the sea to keep the fish from eating his body.

During the festival period, people eat rice-and-meat dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves to symbolise trying to save him.

The highlight of the festival is the fierce dragon boat race. Wooden boats decorated with banners and a dragon head at the front are rowed by dozens of paddlers. Sitting two abreast, with a steersman at the back and a drummer at the front, the paddlers race to reach the finishing line, urged on by the pounding drums and the roar of the crowds.

WRAP-UP

Task 1

Answers

1 is drunk 2 is celebrated 3 is made 4 were built

Task 2

Answers

1 tough 2 float 3 torch 4 coffin
5 wholesome 6 random 7 farewell

Task 3

Answers

Open-ended.

Task 4

Possible answers

- 1 班里组织了一个派对，送别我们将退休的英语老师。
- 2 节日里会有很多售卖当地水果和蔬菜的摊位。
- 3 我知道你不爱做数学作业，但你必须得做完它。
- 4 考试的日子真的很难熬，你是如何处理这种压力的？
- 5 她看着很精神，不是吗？她的新发型真是影响很大。

Task 5

Possible answers

The Moon Festival is celebrated in mid-autumn. Families enjoy spending time together and looking at the bright, full moon. During this holiday, moon cakes are given as presents to relatives and friends.