



Red Letter Days

不知你是否也和我一样，每当拿到新的日历，第一件事便是对着上面那些标红的日期，用笔狠狠地圈出来，然后便心满意足，无比开心？对我来说，这些红字就意味着放假，意味着一个个可以或放松或放空的大好良机！

“庆祝”是一个美好的词汇，它让普通得不能再普通的每一天都值得期待，让简简单单的每一个动作或事件都有了特别的仪式感：告别冬天，我们庆祝；顺利毕业，我们庆祝；乔迁新居，我们庆祝；情人可以过情人节，那光棍和单身狗呢？——双十一是他们的狂欢……

在美国有一个冰淇淋的专属节日；还有人甚至想出了 Ask a Stupid Question Day，在这一天，你可以提出各种无厘头的问题，而不用担心会被嘲笑……

没错，生命就是一份礼物。让我们一起来奇思妙想、花样百出，make each day count！

WARM-UP



Task 1 Look at the pictures and name the season in each one.



Task 2 Circle the sentence which best describes your feelings about winter. If you can't find a suitable one, write down your own idea and share it with your partner.

- a It's my favourite season! I love spending cosy nights at home.
- b I don't like winter at all. It's dark and grey, and I feel cold all the time!
- c I hibernate in winter—I stay at home, watch TV and read books.
- d There are some good festivals in winter—but I much prefer spring and summer!

My feelings about winter: _____

Chinese Corner

寒食节 (春): 在清明节前的一两天, 又称冷节。这一天, 禁止烟火, 只吃冷食。唐代韩翃“春城无处不飞花, 寒食东风御柳斜”。

中元节 (夏): 时在农历七月十五, 又称盂兰盆会、鬼节等。唐代王建“看著中元斋日到, 自盘金线绣真容”。

重阳节 (秋): 时在农历九月初九, 又称茱萸节、登高节。宋代晏殊“重阳过后, 西风渐紧, 庭树叶纷纷”。

祭灶 (冬): 在农历腊月二十三或二十四, 专祀灶神, 又称祀灶节。宋代吕蒙正《祭灶诗》“一碗清汤诗一篇, 灶君今日上青天”。



Matching pictures to text (图文匹配)

阅读文章时，配图常能帮你预测出文字的大致内容或猜出某个生词的意思。例如，一张下雪的图片说明这段文字的内容可能与冬天有关。因此，在阅读时，先仔细观察文章的配图，然后再阅读文字，这对理解文章内容会大有帮助。

Task 1 Read the blog post about two farewell-to-winter festivals. Look at the photos below. Can you find the things in the boxes? Then predict what the blog post will be talking about.

burning boat

mask

coffin

fiery torch



A



B



C



D

Farewell-to-winter Festivals: Two of the Best



Don't you just hate winter? I do—it's freezing, dark and far too long! It seems I'm not alone. Towns and villages all over Europe celebrate the end of these sad, grey months with "farewell-to-winter" festivals. At these huge parties, people come together to say goodbye to the cold days and hello to the warmer, brighter days. I'm always happy to say farewell to my least favourite season! Here are two of the best farewell-to-winter festivals I've experienced on my travels.

Up Helly Aa, Shetland

For people who live in the northerly Scottish islands of Shetland, winters are tough! With months of almost total darkness, strong winds and heavy rain, everyone looks forward to spring. The world-famous fire festival, Up Helly Aa, is celebrated at the end of every January and Shetlanders spend a whole year getting ready for it. Men grow long beards, dress up as Vikings and carry fiery torches through the streets. The torches are thrown onto a beautiful wooden



boat and everyone stands around the huge fire, singing, cheering and saying farewell to winter. 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.

Busójárás, Hungary

If you travel to the small town of Mohács in Hungary in February, you will see one of the most exciting and colourful festivals in Europe—Busójárás. Every year at this festival, the people of Mohács get dressed up in scary masks and walk through the town. They entertain and sometimes try to frighten the visiting crowds. A coffin is pushed through the streets, and finally into the river. Everyone cheers as it floats away. Who is in the coffin? Winter, of course! The party lasts for many days—there is music, dancing and there are many street stalls selling delicious and warming food.

Have you been to any farewell-to-winter festivals? If so, let me know—I'd love to hear about them.

New Words

- #farewell /ˈfeəwəl/ *n.&v.* 告别; 辞行
- festival /ˈfestɪvl/ *n.* 节; 节日
- freezing /ˈfriːzɪŋ/ *adj.* 极冷的; 冰冻的
- northerly /ˈnɔːðəli/ *adj.* 在北方的; 向北方的
- Scottish /ˈskɒtɪʃ/ *adj.* 苏格兰的; 苏格兰人的
- tough /tʌf/ *adj.* 艰苦的; 棘手的
- fiery /ˈfaɪəri/ *adj.* 燃烧的; 易怒的
- torch /tɔːtʃ/ *n.* 火把; 火炬; 手电筒
- cheer /tʃɪə/ *v.* 欢呼; 为……喝彩
- party /ˈpɑːti/ *v.* 尽情欢乐; 纵情狂欢
- scary /ˈskeəri/ *adj.* 骇人的; 恐怖的
- #mask /mɑːsk/ *n.* 面具; 面罩
- #coffin /ˈkɒfɪn/ *n.* 棺材; 灵柩
- #float /fləʊt/ *v.* 漂浮; 飘动
- #stall /stɔːl/ *n.* 摊位; 货摊



Phrases and Expressions

- say farewell to 告别
- push through 使……被通过; 挤着穿过

Proper Names

- Up Helly Aa (英国苏格兰的) 圣火节; 火祭
- Shetland (英国苏格兰东北部的) 设得兰群岛
- Viking 维京人
- Busójárás (匈牙利的) 狂欢节
- Mohács 莫哈奇 (匈牙利南部城市)

代表超纲词汇

维京人 (Viking) 泛指中世纪来自斯堪的纳维亚半岛 (Scandinavian Peninsula) 的北欧海盗, 公元 8 到 11 世纪乘船劫掠欧洲北部和西部海岸。

Reading and Understanding

Task 2 Match the pictures in Task 1 to the incomplete descriptions below. Then use the pictures to help you complete the sentences. Read the text and check your answers.

- 1 Every year the people of Mohács get dressed up in _____ masks and walk through the town.
- 2 The torches are thrown onto a beautiful wooden boat and everyone stands around the huge fire, singing, cheering and saying _____ to winter.
- 3 A coffin is _____ the streets, and finally into the river.
- 4 Men grow long beards, dress up as _____ and carry _____ through the streets.

Task 3 Read the text and answer the questions.

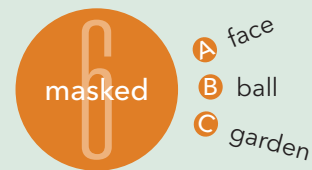
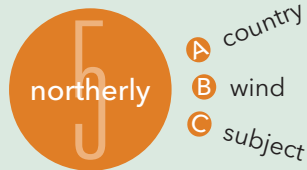
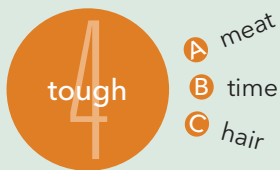
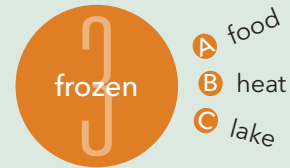
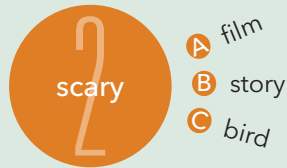
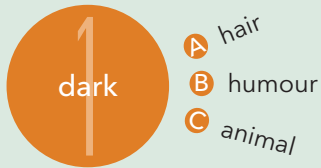
- 1 Why does the writer hate winter?
- 2 What are winters like in Shetland?
- 3 How long does Up Helly Aa last for?
- 4 What do the people of Mohács do to celebrate Busójárás?
- 5 Who is in the coffin when it is pushed into the river?

Task 4 Read the text and choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 When do Shetlanders start preparing for Up Helly Aa?
 - A At the end of spring.
 - B A year before.
 - C At the beginning of January.
- 2 In Busójárás, what does the coffin symbolise?
 - A The coming of winter.
 - B The death of animals, plants and flowers.
 - C The death of winter.
- 3 Which summary best describes the text?
 - A Farewell-to-winter festivals are great fun. They allow people to say goodbye to winter and welcome spring.
 - B Winter is a very cold and dark time. People need to have frequent parties, so they don't feel depressed.
 - C Many people enjoy dressing up at the end of winter.

Vocabulary Focus

Task 1 Cross out the thing each word does NOT normally describe.



Task 2 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words from the boxes.

farewell entertain float stall torch celebration

- 1 It's a good idea to have a(n) _____ in your home—you might need it if there's a power cut.
- 2 This is the best market in the city. There are lots of _____ and they all sell amazing things.
- 3 My family were so sad to say _____ to our house, but we needed to move to a bigger one.
- 4 In China, the biggest _____ of the year is the Spring Festival.
- 5 We have a great English teacher—she doesn't just teach us; she _____ us too.
- 6 There's so much salt in the Dead Sea that you can _____ on it without even trying.

Task 3 Complete the text with words from the boxes.

celebrated festival entertain freezing northerly

Over the Christmas season, families usually stay together and (1) _____ themselves at home. In the (2) _____ Scandinavian countries, Christmas is (3) _____ in a very special way. For example, in Sweden there is a(n) (4) _____ called Saint Lucia's Day, which is celebrated on 13 December. On this day, the eldest girl in each family wakes early and serves her family cake and coffee—a good breakfast on a dark, (5) _____ morning!

Grammar Focus: Passive Voice (被动语态)

被动语态由系动词 be+ 动词过去分词构成。动词常用被动语态构成形式如下:

	一般时态	完成时态
现在	am/is/are done	have/has been done
过去	was/were done	had been done
将来	shall/will be done	shall/will have been done

Task 1 Look at the comments which have been posted on the blog you have read. Find and underline the examples of passive voice.



Monica

Have you ever heard of the Straw Bear Festival (稻草熊节) in England? I was there last January and it's really worth a visit. An enormous straw bear is made and fixed onto a person. There's a procession all over town with music, dancing, food and drink. It's great!



Caleb

If you like farewell-to-winter festivals, you must come to Heidelberg in Germany where the last days of winter have been celebrated for 500 years! Everyone goes out to watch a colourful street procession (队伍) with music and dancing, and all of the children are given sweets to eat. It's wonderful!



Laura

I really love Maslenitsa (谢肉节) in Russia. Everyone goes onto the street to watch a bag full of words about winter (flu, snow, cold, etc.) be set alight (点燃) and burned. Lots of pancakes (薄煎饼) are eaten and people have snowball fights. It's such fun!

Task 2 Put the words and phrases in the correct order and then complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

- _____ up by/this morning/I was/my neighbour's loud music (*wake*)
- by Leonardo Da Vinci/The *Mona Lisa*/was _____ (*paint*)
- were _____/by J. K. Rowling/The *Harry Potter* books (*write*)
- in many different ways/Birthdays/all around the world/are _____ (*celebrate*)
- are _____/in China/Moon-cakes/at the Mid-autumn Festival (*eat*)

Task 3 Complete the conversation with the correct forms of the verbs from the boxes.

bear

speak

fill

dress

play

dance

sell

Joy: Where were you born?

Fernando: I (1) _____ in Brazil, but now I live in the UK.

Joy: Wow! Do you speak Spanish, then?

Fernando: No, Portuguese (2) _____ in Brazil.

Joy: And did you ever go to Carnival (狂欢节) when you lived there? What's it like?

Fernando: It's amazing! The streets (3) _____ with dancers. The dancers (4) _____ in the most amazing costumes too.

Joy: Is there great music?

Fernando: Of course! Music (5) _____ on every street corner. And everyone (6) _____!

Joy: I'd love to go! Where can I buy the tickets?

Fernando: They must (7) _____ online.

Beyond the Text

Task 1 Read the description about a festival. Guess what festival it is.



- What to eat: moon cakes and fresh fruit in season (usually full-moon shaped to symbolise reunion and completeness)
- What to wear: casual clothes, depending on the weather
- Special traditions: families sit together having a big dinner, eating moon cakes while gazing at the moon, sending cards and messages
- When to celebrate: 15th day of the eighth lunar month (late September or early October)

Task 2 What's your favourite festival? Think of words or sentences you associate with this festival and write them down. Think about:

What to eat:

What to wear:

Special traditions:

When to celebrate:

Task 3 Read your words or sentences to your partner and ask him/her to guess which festival you were thinking of. Ask your partner to add more to your list.

Task 4 Find someone else who has chosen the same festival as you. Talk about the words or sentences you have written down and share your ideas with the class.



Not Just Another Day

Just another boring Monday? Not at all—every day should be special! Check out our bizarre awareness days—we humans like to celebrate the strangest things!

National Dress Up Your Pet Day: 14 January

Why not show your dog your care by dressing it up in a cute raincoat and boots? This special day was invented by an animal behaviourist. It celebrates our beloved pets while promoting the pet fashion industry. Don't worry if your pet doesn't own any clothes—a simple piece of ribbon can make an animal feel special!

Random Acts of Kindness Day: 17 February

When was the last time you did something kind for no reason at all? 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. See how many kind things you can do on 17 February and enjoy the nice warm feeling inside!

14 January



17 February



National Ice Cream Day: 18 July

This day was American President Ronald Reagan's idea. President Reagan decided that ice cream was wholesome and delicious and that it should have its own special celebration day. In the end, he decided that one day wasn't enough—so he made the whole of July National Ice Cream Month! Well, you can't have too much of a good thing, can you?



18 July

Ask a Stupid Question Day: 28 September

Have you ever wondered why some people press harder on the remote control when the batteries are dying? Well, 28 September is the day to ask about it. Ask a Stupid Question Day was created by a group of school teachers sometime in the 1980s. Maybe they did it so that they could get all their students' weird questions over with in one day, instead of having to deal with them all year long!



28 September

New Words



- #bizarre /br'zɑ:/ *adj.* 稀奇古怪的; 奇异的
- awareness /ə'weənəs/ *n.* 意识; 认识
- cute /kju:t/ *adj.* 娇小可爱的; 乖巧的
- boot /bu:t/ *n.* 靴子
- #behaviourist /br'heivjə,rɪst/ *n.* 行为主义者
- #beloved /br'lʌvd/ *adj.* 钟爱的; 心爱的
- promote /prə'məʊt/ *v.* 推动; 促进
- #ribbon /'rɪbən/ *n.* 彩带; 丝带
- random /'rændəm/ *adj.* 随意的; 随机的
- #wholesome /'həʊls(ə)m/ *adj.* 有益健康的; 有益的
- stupid /'stju:pɪd/ *adj.* 愚蠢的; 傻的
- battery /'bæt(ə)ri/ *n.* 电池
- weird /wɪəd/ *adj.* 古怪的; 不同寻常的

Phrases and Expressions

- too much of a good thing 好事太多也腻味; 凡事适可而止
- remote control 遥控器
- get sth over with 尽快结束 (不愉快的事)

Proper Names

Ronald Reagan 罗纳德·里根 (第40任美国总统)

Task 1 Read the text and match the phrases in *italics* to their meanings.

- 1 I don't like going to the dentist, but I suppose I just have to *get it over with!*
- 2 What a lovely film! It gave me *a nice warm feeling inside.*
- 3 Teenagers have a lot to *deal with:* studies, relationships and worries about the future.
- 4 I really want to go back to work after a long holiday. I've had *too much of a good thing!*
- 5 You've had your hair cut, haven't you? It looks great. It really *makes a difference!*

- a to take action to do something, especially to solve a problem
- b when you have too much of something nice and it isn't so nice anymore
- c to do something that causes an improvement
- d a sense of happiness and satisfaction
- e to do something quickly because you don't really want to do it

Task 2 Complete the conversation with words from the boxes.

weird

ribbon

cute

beloved

boots

Ella: Oh my goodness! What have you done with Fluffy?

Mark: Do you like his little (1) _____?

Ella: I've never seen a cat wearing shoes. He looks a little (2) _____ actually.

Mark: Really? I think he's (3) _____.

Ella: He's got a(n) (4) _____ on his ear too! What's going on?

Mark: Don't you know what day it is?

Ella: Oh, wait a minute. It's Dress Up Your Pet Day, isn't it?

Mark: That's right. So I decided to make my (5) _____ Fluffy look beautiful!

Ella: Hm. It's lucky for Fluffy that this day only comes once a year! I don't think I'll be dressing up my little puppy...

Task 3 Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 Which day was invented by an American president?
- 2 Which day is most probably feared by teachers and perhaps parents as well?
- 3 Which day is good news for the owners of pet fashion businesses?
- 4 Which day is a day where lonely people might be visited at home?

Task 4 You are going to work with a partner to make a poster for one of the days you have read about.

Tip: 在第二册中已出现过关于海报的介绍和写作指导, 学生们可参考查阅后完成本题。

1
Step

Choose one of the days you have read about. What should people know about your day?

2
Step

Write a few sentences about the day you have chosen. Think of your own ideas about how people could celebrate this special day. For example, what other acts of kindness can you think of?

3
Step

Make a poster to raise awareness of your day. Remember to include the date and some advice on how to celebrate it.

4
Step

Show your poster to the class.

GUIDED WRITING

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

Task 1 Read the messages on greetings cards and match them to the festivals.

- 1 Spoil yourself, Mum! You deserve it.
- 2 Hope the coming year brings you all you wish for!
- 3 Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and so are you!
- 4 For a special couple: wishing you every happiness.
- 5 For the best Dad in the world—have a great day!

- a Father's Day
- b Valentine's Day
- c New Year
- d Mother's Day
- e Wedding Day

Task 2 Complete the greetings cards with words or phrases from the boxes.

thanks	wishes	congratulations on	all
lovely	merry		

The image shows four greeting cards arranged in a 2x2 grid on a dark red background. Each card has a decorative border and illustrations.

- Top-left card:** A gold ribbon is tied around the top-left corner. The text reads: "To Jenny, Have a wonderful birthday! May all your (1) _____ come true—this year and forever more. With very best wishes, Tanya". There is an illustration of a purple birthday cake with white frosting and a cherry on top.
- Top-right card:** The text reads: "To a really special couple, (2) _____ your golden wedding! Hope you have a(n) (3) _____ day and many more happy years ahead. Lots of love, Marta". There are illustrations of two golden bells with red ribbons and a champagne glass with a popping cork and hearts.
- Bottom-left card:** The text reads: "To Professor Brown, (4) _____ Christmas and Happy New Year! Hope you have a warmest festive season. With best regards, Frederick". There are illustrations of a red Christmas ornament, a snowflake, a small Christmas tree, and another snowflake.
- Bottom-right card:** A gold ribbon is tied around the top-right corner. The text reads: "Dear Mum, (5) _____ for putting up with me and for all your love and support. It's your day—make the most of it! Hope you get to relax for once! (6) _____ my love, Anna". There is an illustration of a wrapped gift box with a red ribbon.

Task 3 Look at the cards in Task 2. Which special days are they written for?

Task 4 Match the two halves to complete the sentences. Then read the sentences and discuss who is writing to whom.

- 1 I love you
- 2 Hope this year
- 3 You've always been there for me
- 4 Wishing you a very happy future
- 5 Hope you get to put your feet up

- a full of love and happiness.
- b and relax today!
- c is the best ever!
- d when I needed you.
- e more than ever, my darling!

Task 5 Choose a special day. Write a greetings card to someone you know. Use the words and expressions in the writing profile to help you.

Greetings

Wishing you every happiness on...

Sending you warmest wishes on...

Thinking of you on your special day.

Congratulations on...

Wishing you a Merry Christmas/happy birthday/happy anniversary!

Hope you have a wonderful time!

Sending you big hugs!

Signing off

Warmest wishes

All my love

Lots of love

With love

All the best

With very best wishes

With best regards



Audio



Video

Audio



Words and Expressions

Valentine's Day 情人节

non-event *n.* 扫兴的事

singleton *n.* 单身人士

phone in (给电视台或电台) 打电话发表意见

set *n.* 一套

The Big Bang Theory 《生活大爆炸》(美国电视剧)

nightmare *n.* 噩梦

ruin *v.* 搞砸; 破坏

attached *adj.* 依恋的; 非常喜爱的

paddler *n.* 划船的人

dragon boat race 龙舟赛

Stanley Beach (香港) 赤柱海滩

eye-catching *adj.* 醒目的; 引人注目的

outfit *n.* 一套服装

energetic *adj.* 充满活力的; 精力充沛的

chanting *n.* 重复的呼声

Dragon Boat Festival 端午节 (粤语中为 Tuen Ng Festival)

commemorate *v.* 庆祝; 纪念

bamboo *n.* 竹子

abreast *adv.* 并肩地; 并列

steersman *n.* 船手; 掌船的人

drummer *n.* 鼓手

roar *n.* 喊叫声; 呼喊声

Task 1 You are going to listen to a radio show where single people talk about their plans for Valentine's Day. Do you think they will enjoy this day? Why (not)? Share your ideas with a partner. Then listen to the show and check your predictions.

Task 2 Listen to the radio show and complete the sentences.

- 1 Valentine's Day is the most romantic (1) _____ of the year for happy couples, but it is a lonely non-event for singletons.
- 2 I'm certainly not going to sit at home crying about not having a boyfriend, (2) _____ that's what everyone else wants me to do!
- 3 I will not be answering the phone though (3) _____ it's my mum!
- 4 I don't need greetings card companies to tell me when to celebrate. Life is (4) _____ and every day should be a celebration!
- 5 Now whether you're single or happily (5) _____, this song is for you.

Chinese Corner

七夕 (Qixi) : 农历七月初七。又称乞巧节。流行于汉、满、壮等民族。传说牛郎与织女每年此时要在天河相会。唐代杜甫《牵牛织女》“牵牛出河西，织女处其东。万古永相望，七夕谁见同？”

Task 3 Listen to the radio show and complete the table with the speakers' plans for Valentine's Day.



~ Plans for Valentine's Day ~

 Lisa	What to do? With whom? Why do that?
 Dan	What to do? Why do that?
 Jane	Where to go? What to do? With whom?

Taking notes while listening (边听边做笔记)

做笔记时，不必把所有听到的内容都记下来，也不用书写完整的句子。可以有针对性地先记下关键词或短语，之后再将笔记补充完整。

Task 4 Do you think that certain festivals can be tough for certain people? Share your ideas with the class.

I think that the Spring Festival may be tough for the cleaners who have to clean the streets after the big celebrations. In my opinion,...

Video



Task 5 What do you know about the dragon boat race? Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

Task 6 Watch the video and choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 How many teams compete in the dragon boat races?
A Over 4,000.
B Over 400.
C Over 200.
- 2 How do people prepare before they compete in the race?
A They cheer loudly.
B They dress up.
C They do warm-ups and they chant.
- 3 Who is the Dragon Boat Festival in memory of?
A A man who drowned himself to protest against the government.
B A famous Chinese sailor who drowned at sea.
C A well-known Chinese fisherman who drowned at sea.
- 4 Why did people throw dumplings into the water according to legend?
A In memory of their lost relatives and friends.
B So the fish wouldn't eat Qu Yuan.
C So Qu Yuan could eat in the afterlife.
- 5 What do people eat at the Dragon Boat Festival?
A Different types of traditional food.
B Fish, rice and dumplings.
C Rice-and-meat dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves.

WRAP-UP

WORDS OF WISDOM

爆竹声中一岁除，春风送暖入屠苏。
千门万户曈曈日，总把新桃换旧符。

*The year departs amid the sound of fireworks, and a warm breeze helps to ferment the wine. When the light of dawn shines upon thousands of homes, every family puts up New Year couplets.**

*选自《中华思想文化术语》

Task 1 Complete the sentences. Pay attention to the passive voice.

- 1 Coca-Cola _____ all over the world. (*drink*)
- 2 Thanksgiving _____ every year in the USA. (*celebrate*)
- 3 A lot of wine _____ in France. (*make*)
- 4 The Pyramids _____ in Egypt around 250 BC. (*build*)

Task 2 Rearrange the letters to form words. Use the clues to help you.

1 oguth
clue: difficult, hard
t_____

2 loaft
clue: to rest on the surface
of the water
f_____

3 chort
clue: it helps you to see
on a dark night
t_____

4 foncif
clue: a box for dead
people
c_____

5 mesoholew
clue: healthy and
good
w_____

6 dronam
clue: unexpected and
unplanned
r_____

7 lewrafel
clue: goodbye
f_____

Task 3 Write a birthday card for someone who is very special to you. Use the language you have learned in this unit.

Task 4 Translate the sentences into Chinese.

- 1 My class organised a party to say farewell to our English teacher who was retiring.

- 2 The festival had lots of stalls which were selling local fruit and vegetables.

- 3 I know you don't like doing your maths homework, but you'll just have to get it over with.

- 4 Exam time can be really tough. How do you deal with the pressure?

- 5 She looks great, doesn't she? Her new haircut has really made a difference.

Task 5 Choose a festival in your country and write two or three sentences about it. Try to include at least one sentence in the passive voice.

The Lantern Festival is celebrated in early spring. Children make lanterns of all shapes and sizes. The lanterns are hung in the streets for everyone to see—it's a beautiful sight!