

# READING

## IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- find factual information in a text to decide if a statement is *True*, *False* or *Not Given*
- practise identifying *Not Given* questions
- recognise and use the first and second conditional correctly.

### LEAD-IN

- 01** ▶ Read these three short texts, describing some of the most interesting festivals in the world.
- 02** ▶ Discuss these questions with a partner.
- 1 Which one of these festivals would you most like to attend and why?
  - 2 Which one of these festivals would you least like to attend and why?

## LA TOMATINA SPAIN

La Tomatina is the world's biggest food fight! It is always held on the last Wednesday of August every year in Bunol, a town near Valencia in Spain. Because it is such fun, it has become very popular and officials have had to limit the event to 20,000 people by issuing tickets. More than 100 metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the street during the event.

## TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS

True / False / Not Given questions are a common feature of the exam. They are similar to Yes / No / Not Given questions, but instead of being opinion-based, these questions relate to factual information only.

**03** ▶ Read statements 1–3 relating to the short texts in the lead-in, and decide if they are *True*, *False* or *Not Given*.

- 1 Any number of people can attend La Tomatina.
- 2 The mud festival is used to sell a beauty product.
- 3 On Dia de los muertos people do the same activities their loved ones enjoyed in life.

### TIP 03

The questions are in the same order as the text.

## BORYEONG MUD FESTIVAL SOUTH KOREA

A cosmetics company in South Korea created a line of beauty products which featured mud from the Boryeong mud flats as a main ingredient. The company did not want to spend money on advertising, so the Boryeong Mud Festival was born. This allowed potential customers to feel the benefits of the special mud. The festival is home to mud slides, a mud prison, mud pools and mud skiing. You can also enjoy live music, acupuncture and a fireworks display.

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) MEXICO

This Mexican holiday is celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world. The holiday focuses on remembering friends and family members who have died. It is particularly celebrated in Mexico, where the day is a bank holiday. Activities involved in the holiday include building private altars, cleaning the graves of loved ones and telling funny stories about dead relatives. Street parties, parades and festivals are also a common feature of the celebration.





04 In exercise 3, which word makes statement 1 false?

05 In exercise 3, which word/phrase in the text makes statement 2 true?

06 Read this short text and answer the questions which follow.

Birthdays take place once a year and celebrate the day you were born. Many people have a party on their birthday and socialise with family and friends. A birthday cake, with candles on the top, is often presented at this celebration, together with gifts and cards.

Answer True, False or Not Given.

- The candles on the cake often represent your age.
- Everyone has a party on their birthday.
- Presents are often given on birthdays.
- Everyone likes birthdays.
- Birthdays are celebrated differently around the world.

07 Here is a summary of the advice given in the previous section. Complete the tips using ONE word from the box in each gap. There is one word you do not need.

carefully change order rely same synonyms

Tips

- Do not 1 \_\_\_\_\_ on matching words in the text and question to decide on your answer.
- Answers are in the same 2 \_\_\_\_\_ as they appear in the text.
- True means that the information is the 3 \_\_\_\_\_ as in the text, not similar.
- Read the relevant part of the text very 4 \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is useful to look for 5 \_\_\_\_\_, as the words in the question are rarely the same as those in the text.

08 Using the tips in exercise 7, read the texts and then decide if these statements agree with the information given in them.

Look at the statements and write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information  
 FALSE if the statement contradicts the information  
 NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

- The Dragon Boat Festival celebrates when Qu Yuan was saved by the people who stopped the fish eating him.
- When the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival first began, only the Chinese entered the competition.
- If conditions allow, the exhibits at the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival are displayed when the official festival is over.
- There are a variety of things to do and see at the Lantern Festival.
- Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival.

Perhaps the hardest part of this type of question is understanding when the information is Not Given.

It is important to remember here that your answers must be based on the information in the text only and not from your own knowledge of the subject (or an educated guess).

### HARBIN ICE AND SNOW FESTIVAL

Another spectacular festival hosted by the Chinese is the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival. This is an annual winter festival which takes place in Harbin, Heilongjiang, China, and is now the largest ice and snow festival in the world. Initially, the majority of participants were Chinese, but it has since become an international festival and competition. The festival includes the world's biggest ice sculptures. Officially, the festival starts on 5th January and lasts for one month. However, exhibits often open earlier and finish later, weather permitting. The ice sculptures are displayed throughout the city.



# CHINESE FESTIVALS

If I could visit any country to be a part of their celebrations and festivals, it would be China. China is home to some of the most beautiful celebrations on the planet – celebrations filled with colour and meaning.

### DRAGON BOAT RACING

The Dragon Boat festival, also known as the Duanwu Festival, has been celebrated in China for more than 2,000 years. The festival occurs on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. The celebration emerged after the Chinese scholar, Qu Yuan, threw himself into the Mi Lo river in protest against the government of the time. Qu Yuan was drowned and the people were unable to find the body, so to prevent the fish from eating him, the locals threw rice patties into the river. Ever since then, rice dumplings or zongzi are prepared and eaten during this festival season. Other activities include drinking a special drink called realgar and dragon-boat racing to the sound of beating drums.

### LANTERN RIDDLES

Also in January there is the Lantern Festival, or the Shangyuan Festival, which is celebrated on 15th January of the Chinese lunar calendar. This festival marks the return of spring and is regarded as a day for appreciating family and the bright full moon. There are several different activities involved in this celebration, appealing to all age groups. These include: watching fireworks or solving the riddles\* featured on the lanterns.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

By far the biggest celebration in the Chinese calendar, however, is Chinese New Year. In fact, the lantern festival signifies the end of this long celebration, which begins on Chinese New Year's Eve. It is a holiday filled with dragons, fireworks, symbolic clothing and flowers. Chinese New Year is a time for families to get together. The New Year's Eve dinner is called Reunion Dinner, and is believed to be the most important meal of the year. Families of several generations sit together, enjoying food and socialising.



\*riddle – a strange and difficult question that has a clever and often funny answer



**GRAMMAR FOCUS: FIRST AND SECOND CONDITIONALS**

**09** Read statements a and b and answer the questions which follow.

- a If I have the time this weekend, I will come to the Dragon Boat Festival with you.
- b If I could attend any festival in the world, it would be the carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

- 1 In which statement does the speaker believe that attending the festival is unlikely to happen?
- 2 In which statement does the speaker believe that attending the festival may happen?
- 3 Label each statement as either the first or second conditional.
- 4 Using the examples, complete these rules with these words: *past simple, present simple, infinitive, would*.

**Rules**

First conditional

If + 5 \_\_\_\_\_, ... will + 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Second conditional

If + 7 \_\_\_\_\_, ... 8 \_\_\_\_\_ + infinitive

**10** Complete the sentences with suitable verbs, using either the first or second conditional form.

- 1 If you \_\_\_\_\_ to the festival in town tomorrow, there \_\_\_\_\_ crowds of people. You did say you were going.
- 2 If I \_\_\_\_\_ the time, I \_\_\_\_\_ to more festivals. I am just too busy with other things.
- 3 If I \_\_\_\_\_ the time, I \_\_\_\_\_ bake a cake for the party. I should be able to do it this evening.
- 4 If I \_\_\_\_\_ enough money, I \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate New Year in Australia. I just don't have the money at the moment.
- 5 If he \_\_\_\_\_ this fancy dress costume this afternoon, he \_\_\_\_\_ be very hot in this summer heat.

**EXAM SKILLS**

**11** Read the text and answer the questions which follow.

**In January or February, Venice plays host to the most magical of carnivals. During the carnival, the city is filled with a mass of masked party-goers, posing and dancing, in an attempt to reinvent one of the great traditions of the city. Naturally, it is very crowded and hotels and restaurants are expensive, but it is a unique occasion and a great time to experience this beautiful city.**

The carnival was first held in Venice in the 11th century and lasted for over two months. Activities involved a series of formal parties in St Mark's Square and playing games for money. Regardless of social status, participants wore costumes and masks. Images of the time and occasion are still displayed throughout the city today. During the 18th century, however, this period of festivities came to an end, and the carnival did not return until 1979. Today, the carnival is extremely popular with people eager to dress up and parade around the city in their masks and costumes.

The weekends are the busiest times at the carnival – the final weekend in particular. During the festivities, you can enjoy live music and take part in a large open-air festival. Costumes are also a major feature of the occasion and there is even a competition to judge the best one. The best ones are usually displayed at the centre of carnival festivities, in the breathtaking St Mark's Square. Numerous shops in Venice sell these costumes and masks in preparation for this great event.

Perhaps the most attractive aspect of the Venice carnival, though, is the variety of masked balls and parties there are to attend. You do have to pay for these, however, and they can be quite costly. One of the most expensive parties is the Valentine's Grand Masquerade Ball, held on February 14th at the Palazzo Flangini.



Do these statements agree with the information given in the text?

Look at the statements and write

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

- 1 Before the 20th century, only the rich participated in the carnival.
- 2 The Venice carnival was banned in the 18th century.
- 3 The most popular days at the carnival are during the week.
- 4 None of the festivities take place outside.
- 5 There are few places in Venice where you can purchase your costume and mask.
- 6 In order to take part in the costume competition you need to be Italian.
- 7 The tickets for the Valentine's Grand Masquerade Ball are worth a lot of money.



# WRITING

## IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO


- identify and approach a 'problems and solutions' essay question
- plan and write an essay answering both parts of the question
- write a suitable introduction and conclusion
- revise past, present and future tenses.



### LEAD-IN

**01** Discuss these statements with a partner. Can you suggest solutions to any of these problems?

- 1 Formal celebrations can make some people nervous.
- 2 Nowadays many children do not fully appreciate the presents they are given.
- 3 Celebrations such as birthdays or New Year can make some people feel lonelier than usual.
- 4 Some people believe it is too expensive to get married these days.
- 5 Some celebrations have become too much about money and the reasons behind them have been forgotten.

 In the Writing test, you may be asked to write a 'problems and solutions' essay using statements similar to those in the lead-in.

**02** Look at the pairs of sentences. Each pair includes a sentence with good advice and a sentence with bad advice, based on mistakes often made by students. Next to each statement, put a ✓ for good advice and a X for bad advice.

- 1a Planning is not necessary for this type of question. X
- 1b Planning is particularly important for this task. ✓
- 2a Discuss only two or three problems/solutions in detail.
- 2b Include as many problems/solutions as you can.
- 3a Read and analyse the question very carefully.
- 3b Skim read the question and base your answer on the key words.
- 4a A solution does not need to be given for every problem you mention.
- 4b Each problem mentioned should have a solution.
- 5a Your answer must have a clear structure.
- 5b Structure is not necessary for this task.

### STRUCTURING YOUR ANSWER

**03** Skim read this sample answer to understand the main idea.

*Some celebrations have lost their original meaning and these occasions have become too much about spending money. What problems can this cause? What could be done to change the situation?*

## SAMPLE ANSWER

### Introduction

There are several national or international celebrations throughout the year which are dominated by shops and companies taking the opportunity to make large profits. Heavy advertising campaigns, which begin well in advance of the celebration itself, mean that some people pay very little attention to the actual reason behind the event. In the following essay, I will discuss some of the problems this causes and also offer some solutions.



### Main Body

One of the main problems with some celebrations being too focused on spending money is that it means for some people the occasion might cause stress and unhappiness. This could be created by worrying about what gifts to buy or by not having any money to buy presents.



### Main Body

Perhaps the most significant problem, however, is that the true meaning of the celebration is forgotten. Most celebrations are about appreciating life and spending time with friends and family. As a result of focusing on presents and money, this is often forgotten, and the buying of gifts can actually cause arguments between loved ones.



### Main Body

I believe the solutions to these problems, however, are simple. First, it is the duty of schools and parents to educate the younger generation, teaching them the true meaning of each celebration. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, people should limit the number of presents they give and receive, consequently putting less emphasis on that part of the occasion.



### Conclusion

In conclusion, therefore, there are several negative effects associated with celebrations becoming too focused on spending money – effects which, for some, can cause unhappiness and stress. In order to prevent this from happening in the future, the younger generation need to be educated fully on the true meaning of celebrations and generally people should put less importance on buying and receiving presents.



**04** Complete the boxes next to the sample answer with descriptions a–e.

- a Summary of the discussion
- b What is the solution? How will it solve the problem?
- c Second problem and reasons for this/examples
- d First problem and reasons for this/examples
- e Rephrase the question and say what the essay is about



## WRITING INTRODUCTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

**05** Look at the sample answer again and answer these questions.

### Introduction

- 1 Which words rephrase the question?
- 2 Which words indicate what the writer is going to discuss?

### Conclusion

- 3 The conclusion summarises information taken from which paragraphs?
- 4 Is there any new information included in the conclusion?
- 5 Does the conclusion copy the exact wording used in the main body of the essay?
- 6 Is the last sentence a prediction or recommendation?

**TIP** **05**

If you have time, you can finish your conclusion with a prediction or recommendation.

## UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION

**06** 'Problem and solution' essay questions may not always be phrased in the same way. Study these examples and answer the questions which follow.

A

*In the modern world, spending money is a major focus of many of our celebrations and the meaning behind these events has become less important.*

*Suggest measures which could be taken to solve this problem.*

B

*Spending too much money on gifts has led to numerous problems and the true meaning of many celebrations has less importance these days.*

*Identify these problems and suggest ways in which these issues might be tackled.*

C

*Nowadays most people pay little attention to the real meaning of many celebrations, due to a growing focus on spending money on gifts.*

*What are the negative aspects of this and what can be done to minimise the bad effects?*

D

*Focusing on spending money during times of celebration is a significant problem and many people pay little attention to the true meaning of these events.*

*What are the reasons for this and how could these problems be solved?*

- 1 What other ways are there of saying *what solutions can you suggest?*
- 2 What other ways are there of saying *problems?*
- 3 Which of these essay questions requires a different kind of answer?

## REVISION OF TENSES

**07** Read this sample answer and complete it using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

close do discuss give ignore pass want

*Celebrations such as New Year can make some people feel lonelier than usual. What are the reasons for this and how might this issue be tackled?*

## SAMPLE ANSWER

For those with family and friends close by, New Year can be a happy occasion. For many, however, for a whole variety of reasons, it can be a very lonely time and can make people feel more alone than usual. In the following essay, I 1 \_\_\_\_\_ the reasons for this and how the problem could be solved.

One of the reasons some people feel lonelier at New Year is because the event 2 \_\_\_\_\_ a great deal of attention by the media and many people feel pressure to be doing something spectacular. There is, therefore, a large expectation to be around crowds of people.

Another reason is because at New Year many businesses 3 \_\_\_\_\_ for the holiday. Consequently, people often do not have the option of keeping busy at work or socialising with colleagues. A third reason is that New Year tends to be a time when people think about the year which 4 \_\_\_\_\_ and their life in general. Therefore, if someone does not have company at this time, it can make them feel lonelier.

In order to tackle this problem, people should not pay too much attention to the media at this time. If they do not have anything planned, they should treat it as an ordinary day. If they 5 \_\_\_\_\_ to think about the year which has passed, they should 6 \_\_\_\_\_ it on a different day, when there is no pressure to feel happy.

In summary, loneliness can be a problem for some people at New Year. In order to tackle this, the media should 7 \_\_\_\_\_ and lonely people should treat the date as an ordinary day.

## EXAM SKILLS

**08** Use the information and language from this lesson to answer this Writing Part 2 task. You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Organising a large family celebration such as a wedding can often create problems.*

*What can be the problems associated with organising a large family event and what solutions can you suggest?*

*Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.*

Write at least 250 words.



# LISTENING

## IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

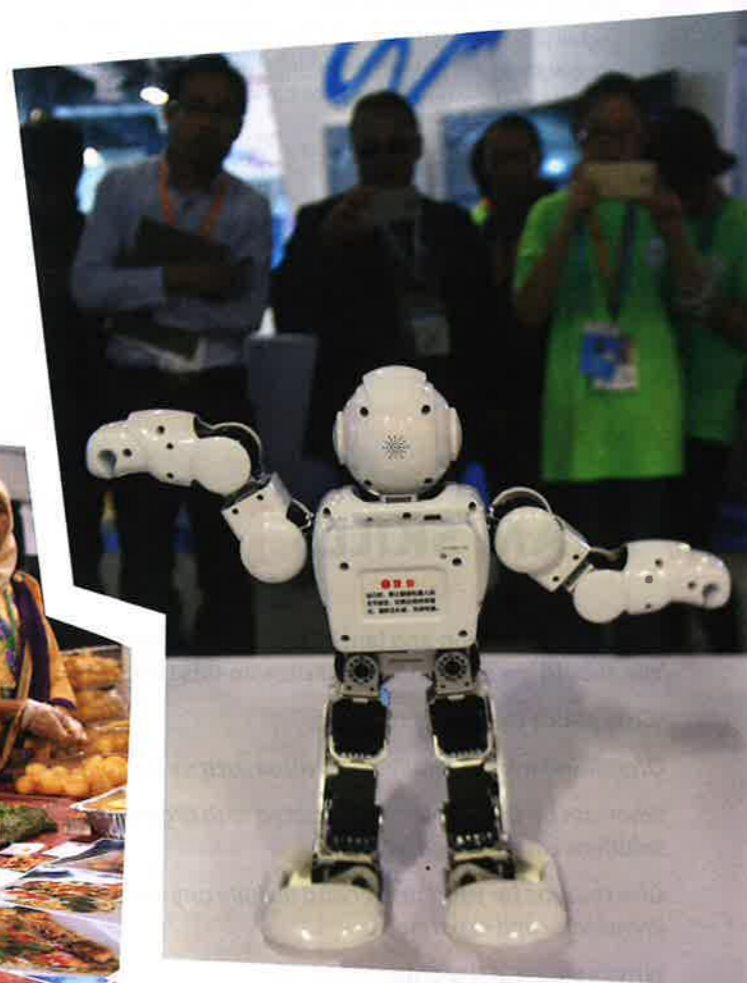
- identify key information in summaries and tables to guide your listening
- classify information as you listen
- listen carefully to complete summaries and tables.

### LEAD-IN

**01** Listen to these short extracts from talks and complete the table to show the type of event each speaker is talking about.

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Speaker	Event
	Music festival
	Arts and crafts festival
	Poetry and literature festival
	Food festival
1	Sports festival
	Technology fair



## SUMMARY COMPLETION

**0** In the Listening test you may have to complete a summary with words from the recording. You may need to write up to *three words and/or a number* in each gap. Before you listen, you need to look at the summary and gaps and think about:

- what the topic is
- what the missing information could be
- what kind of words you can put there (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.).

You also need to pay attention to key words and phrases in the summary which will help you to listen carefully for the correct words.

**02** The speaker, Dr Saunders, is talking about the preparations for a recent arts festival at a university. Before you listen, look at sentences 1–4 and underline the key words and phrases. Listen and choose the correct alternative in each sentence to create a summary of his talk. (You may hear both alternatives, but the context should help you make the correct choice.)

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- 1 The festival has grown in four years from having mostly music and performing arts in the first year to including other art forms, most recently **painting and crafts / photography and films**, especially from the university students.
- 2 Dr Saunders is particularly encouraged by the number of **students / professional artists** who took part in the latest festival.
- 3 The festival visitors stayed at the university and at the city college, with the students helping with the **accommodation / catering** arrangements.
- 4 The aims of the festival include extending the university's reputation and giving students the chance to get experience of organising events, mainly as **paid workers / volunteers**.

### TIP 02

Remember that the information on the recording is in the same order as in the summary.

**03** Listen to Dr Saunders' review of the festival and complete the sentences in the summary. Write up to **TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** in each gap.

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- At 12,500, visitors were up by 10% on the previous year.
- The **1** \_\_\_\_\_ event was the most popular with many different entries and high levels of attendance.
- One of the main musical attractions had to call off through illness and a replacement could not be found in time, so money had to be returned to the customers.
- The crafts exhibition was **2** \_\_\_\_\_ despite the variety and quality of crafts on display, so it needs to be reviewed.
- Although there was good security present, **3** \_\_\_\_\_, which were worth about £3,000, were stolen so there is a need for better security in future.
- There were some complaints about accommodation because many visitors booked it very late. Unfortunately, the extra accommodation which was supplied was of a **4** \_\_\_\_\_.
- More volunteers are needed as some visitors did not get enough information.
- A lot of money was spent on **5** \_\_\_\_\_ to work with the volunteers but they were possibly not worth the money, so suggestions for reducing costs in that area are welcome.
- The programme needs to be updated and there needs to be more **6** \_\_\_\_\_, such as advertising and sponsorship, from local companies for the next festival.

### TIP 03

Before you listen, look at each sentence and underline the key words and phrases to help you focus on listening for the correct words.



# COMPLETING TABLES ]

**0** In the Listening test you may have to complete a table with words from the recording. The table will have information in clear categories, so before you listen, you need to look at the categories with gaps and think about what **kind** of information is required in each gap. This will help you to listen carefully for the correct missing words.

**04** A lecturer, Dr Reynolds, and two students, Sangita and Lawrence, are discussing the festival programme. Listen and choose the correct alternative in these notes.

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Discussion on events		
Event	Sangita	Lawrence
<b>Music</b>	Artist in reserve 1 <b>Student band / Well-known local band</b>	Unlikely for the main act to be unable to play in future 2 <b>Book local band for the last night / Book local band every night</b>
<b>Crafts</b>	Have clothes separate from other crafts	Make more of the fashion section 3 <b>Show clothes, glass and pottery / Show only clothes</b>
<b>Theatre and poetry</b>	Performances in students' own languages	4 <b>Have students' plays and poems / Have only famous plays and poems</b>
<b>Photography</b>	5 <b>Have only digital photographs displayed / Have digital and non-digital photographs displayed</b>	Only have photographs displayed digitally

**05** Dr Reynolds, Sangita and Lawrence are discussing the practical aspects of the festival. Listen and complete the notes with **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER**.

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**TIP 05**

Remember to look at the different categories in the notes and think about what information would come under that category. This will help you to focus on the correct words when listening.

**TIP 05**

You may need to write up to **three words and/or a number** in each gap in the exam.

Discussion on organisation		
Aspect of organisation	Sangita	Lawrence
<b>Accommodation</b>	Use holiday accommodation for 1 _____	Having young people at the festival helps the university in future.
<b>Catering</b>	Encourage students to give their ideas and offer to use their own 2 _____ skills.	Agrees
<b>Professional help/ volunteers</b>	Former students would organise it better.	The 3 _____ did not work well as they saw the festival as just a student event.
<b>Security</b>	Windows were open. Everyone should be more careful and take personal 4 _____ for security.	Nothing to add, as there were security guards around all the time.
<b>Finance</b>	It's a good idea for businesses to sponsor or advertise as long as they respect the spirit of the festival.	Students might not be happy with commercial organisations taking a role. Businesses can sponsor specific events and present 5 _____



06 Dr Reynolds is telling Dr Saunders about the students' suggestions. Listen and complete the table with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER.

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Suggestions from the discussion on the festival		
	Suggestion and reason accepted	Suggestion and reason rejected
Music	Local bands and student bands: encouraging people to take part	Using replacement bands: too complicated
Crafts	Fashion show: good idea as it can involve many international students	Stop pottery and glass exhibition: need to encourage all 1 _____ of art, not just the popular ones
Theatre and poetry	Plays and poems by students: it would help to raise 2 _____ Works in different languages: help international students feel more at home and valued	-
Photography	-	Digital and non-digital exhibition: not next year because of the 3 _____
Accommodation	-	Using the holiday park: unlikely to be ready in time, but a good possibility for future festivals
Catering	Encourage students to take part in cooking: helps their 4 _____	-
Professional help/volunteers	Find better organisers: have a better selection system	Using former students instead of professional organisers: not really possible - too much trouble to find and employ them
Security	Encourage students to be more careful: it will increase 5 _____ among students	-
Finance	Encourage businesses to sponsor events and advertise: would encourage more interest in the university and improve relationships with business	Encourage students to have more events to raise money: would take their attention away from their 6 _____

# SPEAKING

## IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- speak in detail about celebrations and special events
- make comparisons between the past and the present, or between similarities and differences
- use words and phrases that show 'concession' to look at both sides of an argument
- stress key words to make comparisons.

### LEAD-IN

01 With a partner, describe what you can see in the photos below and then discuss these questions.

- 1 What kind of things do people celebrate in your country?
- 2 What do you do to celebrate birthdays in your country?
- 3 Are any of the celebrations in your country known throughout the world?
- 4 Do you enjoy public holidays and celebrations?





## COMPARING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Often Speaking Part 3 questions will ask you to compare the importance of a topic in the past and present. Look at this sample Part 3 question:

*Do you think that national celebrations are less important now than they were in the past?*

When answering this type of question, it is useful to consider all sides of the debate.

**02** With a partner, complete this chart. Complete each sentence in at least two different ways.



We can use *more* or *less* to compare the ideas in the chart:

Celebrations were *more* important in the past *than* now because ...

Celebrations were *less* important in the past *than* now because ...

**03** With a partner, decide whether celebrations are more important now than in the past. Use *more* and *less* in your answer, and give reasons using your ideas from the chart.

### TIP 03

Develop your responses by using a range of tenses and by adding more information in your answer.

## MAKING PAST/PRESENT COMPARISONS WITH WOULD

To offer more information in questions which ask for a comparison between the present and the past, it helps to consider the differences between what people *would* or *used to* do in the past and what they do now.

**04** With a partner, brainstorm some popular events that you know about and write them in the first column of the table. Then complete the table with your shared ideas.

Event	Things people would do in the past	Things people do now
1 Chinese New Year	In the past, people would get together with their families and celebrate at home.	Now, people like to watch the fireworks at the harbour.
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

## LOOKING AT BOTH SIDES OF THE ARGUMENT

In Speaking Part 3, you should try to consider both sides of an argument. You can do this by using words such as *although*, *even though* and *while* to add information about one side of the argument, then adding information about the other side. For example:

*Although many people still celebrate Valentine's Day each year, it is possible that they focus too much on presents.*

*Even though preparing for the carnival takes a lot of time, it is an important part of our culture.*

*While the Battle of the Oranges is supposed to be fun, it leaves a lot of mess for people to clean up!*

When we present both sides of the argument using these words, it is called 'concession'.

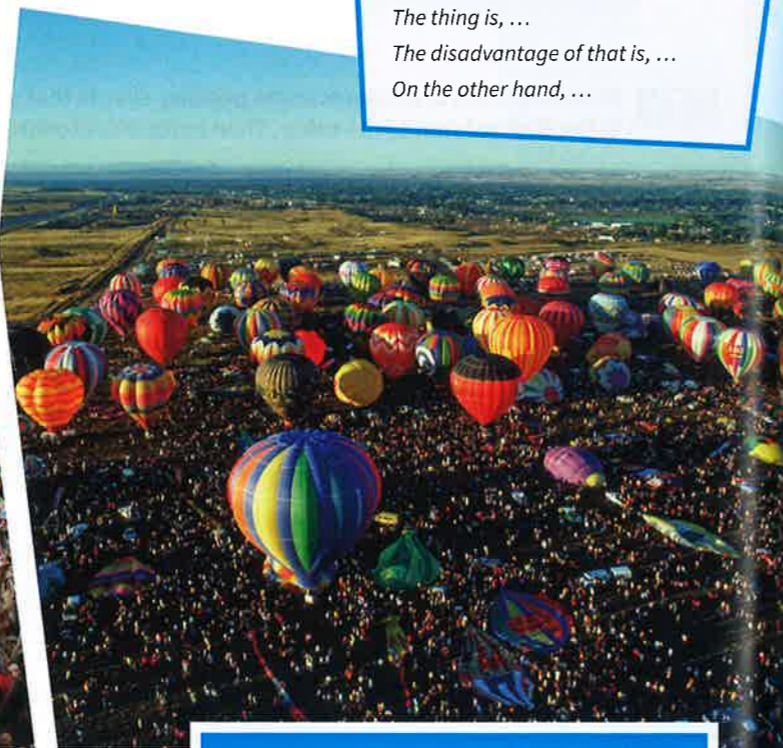


**05** With a partner, consider one positive and one negative statement about a festival you have attended. Then make a positive and negative statement about a festival you would like to attend. Make a balanced argument using a concession for each one. Use the pictures on page 163 and those here to help you.

Although the Battle of the Oranges gets very messy, it's such a colourful experience.



Glastonbury Music Festival



Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

**TIP 05**

You can also make concessions with sentence openers such as:  
*The problem is, ...*  
*The trouble is, ...*  
*The thing is, ...*  
*The disadvantage of that is, ...*  
*On the other hand, ...*

**ADJECTIVES FOR CELEBRATIONS**

**08** Using the adjectives in the box (as well as your own ideas), compare and contrast the four festivals with a partner.

astonishing colourful dramatic emotional entertaining exhausting  
 impressive incredible memorable mysterious peaceful serious

**TIP 08**

When we compare, we focus on the **similarities**.  
 When we contrast, we focus on the **differences**.

**PRONUNCIATION: CONTRASTIVE STRESS**

**09** Often we can emphasise differences by stressing key words. Listen to the sentences and underline the words which the speakers stress.

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- 1 I prefer spending time with my family on my birthday rather than spending time with them at New Year.
- 2 This holiday is much more exciting than that holiday.
- 3 These ideas might be better for a celebration than those ideas.
- 4 Some people don't enjoy public holidays as much as other people I know.

**10** Write **THREE** sentences comparing different things with your own ideas. Say them to a partner, stressing the key words to show contrast.

**DISCUSSING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

**06** We can make categories for ideas about similarities and differences. Using the festivals you chose in exercise 4, complete this table.

Event	Season	Location	Procedure	Meaning
Rio Carnavale	Spring	Brazil	Street dancing and performance	Celebration of different cultures

**07** Using the information in the table, talk about how these festivals are similar and different with a partner. Can you think of any other categories to describe the festivals?

**TIP 07**

Another useful way of comparing things is to focus directly on the differences. For example:  
*The main difference between Chinese New Year and new year celebrations in my country is ...*

**EXAM SKILLS**

**11** Ask and answer these Speaking Part 1 questions with a partner.

- 1 Do you have any special festivals in your country?
- 2 What kind of festival is most popular in your country?
- 3 Are there any international festivals that you would like to attend?
- 4 Are there any festivals or celebrations you don't enjoy?

**12** Answer the prompts in this Speaking Part 2 task. Try to talk for **TWO** full minutes.

Describe a public holiday in your country.

You should say:

- what the holiday is celebrating
- when the holiday occurs
- what people do on that holiday

and explain why you like / dislike that holiday.

**13** Listen to a student answering these questions. Then practise asking and answering them with a partner.

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- 1 What is the difference between how people celebrate special events today compared with the past?
- 2 Should we learn about the special events of other countries in school?
- 3 What will special events be like in the future?
- 4 Do we spend too money on special events like Valentine's Day or birthdays?