

# ACROSS CULTURES

## New Year in the UK

### Get started

1 What holidays do you celebrate in your country?

### Read

2 Read the text. Which traditions in the UK are similar to traditions in your country?

### New Year's Resolutions

It is very popular in the UK to make New Year's resolutions on 31<sup>st</sup> December. These are promises that you make about how you want to make your life to be better in the future. People often decide to do more sport, eat healthy food, study more or save their money.

### Auld Lang Syne



People in many parts of the UK still sing the song *Auld Lang Syne* /ɔːld læŋ 'zɑːn/ at New Year. It was originally a poem written in 1788 by Robert Burns, a Scottish poet. The title means 'long, long ago' in modern English. The song talks about the past as well as friendship and love. People hold hands and sing it at **midnight**.

### Hogmanay

The word *Hogmanay* /'hɒgməneɪ/ is an old Scottish word for the last day of the year. The old Scottish **tradition** of first-footing on New Year's **Eve** is still alive today. Tradition says that the first dark-haired person who enters your home on New Year's Eve after midnight brings the house good luck for the New Year. Visitors often bring gifts of fruit cake, silver coins or coal to bring food, money and warmth to the family who live there.

coins



coal

### Calennig

In Welsh the word *Calennig* /ka'lenɪg/ means 'New Year's gift' or 'New Year's celebration'. In Wales many people give a traditional **gift** at New Year. The gift is an apple that has three twigs, dried fruit, cloves and evergreen plants in it. Welsh people give them to their friends and family to bring luck and happiness in the New Year.

twigs



dried fruit



cloves



### New Year's Eve Celebrations



On New Year's Eve people **celebrate** with their friends and loved ones. Many people invite friends and have a party. People often play loud music, dance or watch **fireworks**. And at midnight people shout *Happy New Year!*, hug each other, call friends or relatives and wish each other good luck.

## Comprehension

### 3 Complete the sentences with the words in bold from Exercise 2.

- 1 The evening before the first day of the year is called New Year's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Some people like to watch \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky at New Year's parties.
- 3 Do you like my new watch? It was a \_\_\_\_\_ from my brother.
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ is something we did in the past that we still do today.
- 5 A lot of people like to \_\_\_\_\_ New Year with a party.
- 6 The New Year starts after \_\_\_\_\_ of 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### 4 Read the text again. Answer true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS).

- 1 People in the UK don't like to make New Year's resolutions.
- 2 Auld Lang Syne is a dance.
- 3 First footing begins after midnight.
- 4 People in Wales give Calennig as gifts.
- 5 Some people eat special food at midnight.

## Speak

### 5 Put the words in order to make questions.

1 celebrate / you / do / how / New Year's Eve

\_\_\_\_\_

2 you / with / celebrate / who / with / do

\_\_\_\_\_

3 any /there / are / special traditions

\_\_\_\_\_

4 food / and drink / what / you / eat / do

\_\_\_\_\_

5 do / what / midnight / you / do / at

\_\_\_\_\_

6 New Year's / are / resolutions / what / your

\_\_\_\_\_

### 6 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in Exercise 5 about your New Year's Eve.

## Project

### 7 Work in pairs. Write an invitation to a New Year's Eve party. Write about:

- the time and place where you are going to celebrate
- the food you are going to have
- the attractions you are going to have
- the traditions you are going to celebrate