

# Teacher's notes and key

## Lesson title:

# NEW YEAR IN THE UK

**Language Focus:** *describing traditions and New Year celebrations*

**New Language:** *New Year's Eve, tradition, gifts, midnight, New Year's resolutions, fireworks.*

**Reading comprehension:** *reading for general gist and specific details*

**Grammar focus:** *future plans (going to), questions in the present simple*

### Cultural Background

On 31<sup>st</sup> December every year people all over the world celebrate and welcome the start of the New Year. In the UK there are some old New Year's Eve traditions that some people still do every year. The United Kingdom is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Island. You can point out to students that although many of the New Year's traditions mentioned in the reading have specific origins in one country, they may also be practised in other countries too (such as first footing which is also an Irish tradition).

### Exercise 1

- Ask students to name the holidays they celebrate and give the month they are celebrated in. Write down the holidays on the board and have a class vote on the holiday students like best.

### Exercise 2

- Ask students to read the text and ask volunteers to say which traditions or celebrations mentioned in the text are similar to the traditions and celebrations in their country.
- Explain any unknown words. Make sure that students understand the difference between a celebration and a tradition.

### Exercise 3

- Ask students to work individually to complete the sentences with words in bold from the reading text in Exercise 2.
- Answers: 1 Eve 2 fireworks 3 gift 4 tradition 5 celebrate 6 midnight

### Exercise 4

- Ask students to read the text and answer the questions.
- Answers: 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 T 5 DS

### Exercise 5

- Ask students if there is something in their country that people always do at New Year? What is it? Provide any vocabulary that students may need to answer the question, e.g. *set off fireworks* and *fireworks display*. Ask students if they make any New Year's resolutions and what they are. Elicit answers with *going to* (e.g. *I am going to do more sports.*) and provide any vocabulary students may need.
- Ask students to put the questions in order. Go round and monitor, then check answers.
- Answers: 1 How do you celebrate New Year's Eve? 2 Who do you celebrate with? 3 Are there any special traditions? 4 What food do you eat and drink? 5 What do you do at midnight? 6 What are your New Year's resolutions?

### Exercise 6

- Ask students to work in pairs to ask each other questions about their New Year's Eve. Go round the classroom and monitor.
- When students have finished, ask volunteers to say how their or their partner's New Year's Eve is different or similar to the celebrations in the UK.

### Exercise 7

- You can set this for homework or ask students to work in pairs.
- Make sure students are clear what information they need to include in their invitation.

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