



4. Holidays and Celebrations

1. What are the red letter days in your family?
2. What is the greatest family celebration for you?
3. How do you celebrate your birthday?
4. How is the birth of a baby celebrated in Hungary?
5. What is a Hungarian wedding like?
6. What sorts of presents does the new couple get?
7. What parties are organised for the couple before the wedding?
8. Are namedays celebrated all over the world?
9. What celebrations are there at schools in Hungary?
10. What do we celebrate at Christmas?
11. How do the Hungarians celebrate Christmas?
12. What is an English Christmas like?
13. How do we celebrate New Year's Eve?
14. How is New Year's Eve celebrated in England?
15. What do we celebrate at Easter?
16. How do we celebrate Easter?
17. How is Easter celebrated in England?
18. What public holidays are there in Hungary?
19. What English public holidays have you heard of?
20. What is Valentine's Day?
21. How do the English celebrate May Day?
22. Is the Queen's birthday a public holiday?
23. How is Halloween celebrated?
24. What is Guy Fawkes Night?
25. How is Armistice Day celebrated?
26. What public holidays are there in the U.S.A?
27. What are Memorial Day and Veterans' Day?
28. How do the Americans celebrate Independence Day?
29. What is Thanksgiving and how is it celebrated?
30. Which originally American holidays have spread to other countries?

Holidays and Celebrations

1. We celebrate birthdays, namedays, wedding anniversaries, Mother's Day, Christmas, and Easter.
2. I like birthdays the most because the whole family comes together for these occasions.
3. In my family we always celebrate birthdays at weekend so that those relatives of ours can come who live a bit far from us. On my birthday, my mother always cooks my favourite dishes, mushroom soup and stuffed chicken with mashed potatoes and parsley. She also orders a cake from the most popular confectionery in town. I have to blow the candles on the cake before I get my presents. I like surprises very much, so nobody tells me what I will get. When I have opened my presents, we sit down to chat a little bit and then play my favourite board games.
4. When the baby is about five months, the family organises the christening. The whole family goes to a church where a priest christens the baby. If the parents are not religious, they organise a name-giving ceremony in the town hall. After the ceremony the family gathers either in the home of the parents or in a restaurant and has lunch or dinner.
5. In Hungary most people get married on a Saturday afternoon. All couples have to get married in a registry office, and those who are religious have a church wedding, too. In the registry office, the ceremony is led by a registrar, and the couple and their two witnesses sign the register. The two ceremonies might be on different days, and in this case the couple dress up differently for the two occasions. In the church, the bride wears a long white wedding dress with a veil and a train, and the bridegroom an elegant dark suit with a white shirt and a tie. The bride holds a bouquet, and the bridegroom has a boutonniere. After the ceremony there is a reception, which in villages is often held in a big tent. At the reception several kinds of dishes are served and the new couple cuts the wedding cake. At midnight the couple change their clothes and the so-called bride's dance starts. All the guests dance with the bride and give some money to the couple to contribute to their new life together.
6. The new couple usually gets cutlery and crockery, pots and pans, all kinds of kitchen equipment, things for decorating their flat, bed and table linen, and gift vouchers.
7. The friends of the fiancé organise a stag night for him. It can be house party or they can book a room in a restaurant or pub. They drink and eat and enjoy themselves all night. A similar party, called a hen party, is organised by the friends of the fiancée where only women are present.
8. No, they are not celebrated, for example, in English-speaking countries. In Hungary namedays are almost as important as birthdays and are celebrated in all families.
9. We have an opening and a closing ceremony and we celebrate national holidays, such as October 23 and March 15. In primary school the junior section celebrates Mothers' Day and Christmas. In secondary school there is school leavers' ball and their farewell ceremony.