

LINGUA AGENTS

Lesson Summary

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS



Vocabulary

Word / Phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
celebration	A special event or party to mark an occasion.	<i>We had a big celebration for New Year.</i>
festival	A public event, often yearly, celebrating culture, music or tradition.	<i>Tomorrowland is a famous music festival.</i>
carnival	A lively street festival with music, dancing and costumes.	<i>The carnival fills the streets with colour.</i>
parade	A festive public march with floats, music and crowds.	<i>We watched the parade from the pavement.</i>
float	A decorated platform that moves through a parade.	<i>The dancers rode a huge float.</i>
costume	Special clothes you wear to dress up for an event.	<i>She wore a bright costume to the carnival.</i>
procession	A group of people moving slowly together, often for a ceremony.	<i>The religious procession moved through the town.</i>
ceremony	A formal event that marks a special occasion.	<i>The wedding ceremony was beautiful.</i>

Word / Phrase	Meaning	Example sentence
gathering	A large group of people meeting for fun or tradition.	<i>The festival was a huge gathering of families.</i>
decorations / ornaments	Pretty items you put up to celebrate.	<i>They hung decorations on the Christmas tree.</i>
wedding	The celebration when two people get married.	<i>I am going to my cousin's wedding.</i>
birthday party	A party to celebrate the day someone was born.	<i>We are planning a birthday party for a friend.</i>
dinner party	A social meal with guests at someone's home.	<i>They hosted a dinner party on Saturday.</i>
New Year's Eve	The evening of the 31st of December.	<i>On New Year's Eve we say Happy New Year.</i>
Halloween	An autumn celebration where children wear costumes and collect sweets.	<i>The children wore costumes for Halloween.</i>

Grammar

Present simple vs present continuous

PRESENT SIMPLE vs PRESENT CONTINUOUS		
Tense	Use	Example
Present simple <i>have, spend</i>	Routines, habits and facts. Signals: every year, always, usually.	<i>Every year we have a big celebration.</i>
Present continuous <i>am / is / are + -ing</i>	Something in progress right now. Signals: now, at the moment, look!	<i>Look! They are lighting fireworks now.</i>

Usage note. Signal words tell you which tense to use. Every year, always and usually point to the present simple. Now, at the moment and look! point to the present continuous, the action happening as you speak.

Past simple vs past continuous

PAST SIMPLE vs PAST CONTINUOUS		
Tense	Use	Example
Past simple <i>celebrated, watched</i>	A completed action in the past. Signals: yesterday, two months ago, last year.	<i>We celebrated Diwali two months ago.</i>

Past continuous <i>was / were + -ing</i>	An action in progress in the past, often interrupted.	<i>We were watching the fireworks when it started to rain.</i>
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Usage note. Use the past continuous for the longer action in progress and the past simple for the short action that interrupts it. When usually introduces the interruption, and while usually introduces the ongoing action.

Useful phrases

Phrase	Use it when...
I would like to visit...	You are talking about a wish or a dream.
Happy New Year!	You are greeting people on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.
Look! They are (dancing)...	You are pointing out something happening right now.
At the moment, I am (travelling)...	You are describing what is happening now.
... when ... / ... while ...	You are linking a past action in progress with the event that interrupted it.
What were you doing at (3 p.m.)?	You are asking about an action in progress in the past.

Common confusions

present simple vs present continuous

Use the present simple for routines (every year, always) and the present continuous for what is happening now (look!, at the moment).

past simple vs past continuous

The past simple is a finished action (we celebrated). The past continuous is an action in progress (we were celebrating), often interrupted by another.

parade vs procession

A parade is a festive public event with floats and music. A procession is a group moving slowly together, often solemn or religious.