



## VOCABULARY BANK

# Culture and Traditions

Culture and Traditions | Bank 1: celebrations, customs and identity | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

## 1. Quick confidence check

Before you study the topic, mark the column that best describes your confidence with each word or phrase.

| Word or phrase       | New to me             | I recognise it        | I can use it          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| celebration          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| custom               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| tradition            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| traditional food     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| national holiday     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| family gathering     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| cultural identity    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| respect traditions   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| take part in         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| local festival       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| traditional clothing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| community spirit     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## 2. Vocabulary bank

Here are some useful words, adjectives, verbs and chunks that can be reused in exam answers. If you are not sure of their meaning, check online or ask your teacher.

| Category       | Useful vocabulary                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Celebrations   | celebration, national holiday, local festival, family gathering, take part in, special occasion                                                    |
| Traditions     | custom, tradition, traditional food, traditional clothing, music and dance, pass down traditions                                                   |
| Identity       | cultural identity, community spirit, respect traditions, sense of belonging, shared values, local customs                                          |
| Opinion chunks | One important tradition is..., People usually celebrate by..., It gives people a sense of..., Families pass down..., It is important to respect... |

### 3. Match the meaning

Match each word or phrase with the correct meaning. Then choose four and write your own examples.

| Word or phrase       | Meaning                                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. custom            | a. an occasion when relatives meet together                        |
| 2. tradition         | b. a strong feeling of support between people in an area           |
| 3. family gathering  | c. a usual way of behaving in a culture or community               |
| 4. cultural identity | d. join an activity or event                                       |
| 5. community spirit  | e. a belief or activity passed from older people to younger people |
| 6. take part in      | f. a person's feeling of belonging to a culture                    |

### 4. Build useful chunks

Choose useful chunks from the grid. Then write three natural sentences you could use in a speaking or writing answer.

|                   |                      |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| national holiday  | family gathering     | local festival       |
| traditional food  | traditional clothing | pass down traditions |
| cultural identity | respect traditions   | community spirit     |

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Read in context

Read the text. The bold words are from the vocabulary bank.

#### Why Traditions Matter

Every culture has a **tradition** or **custom** that helps people feel connected to the past. These traditions may include food, clothing, stories or music.

During a **national holiday**, families might prepare **traditional food** and have a **family gathering**. These moments can create strong memories.

Celebrations also support **cultural identity** because they remind people where they come from. They can build **community spirit** when neighbours celebrate together.

Traditions can change over time, but many people still want to respect them. Passing them down helps younger generations understand their history and values.

## 6. Check your understanding

Answer the questions in your own words. Use the vocabulary bank where it fits naturally.

### READING CHECK

1. What kinds of traditions are mentioned in the text?

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2. What might families do during a national holiday?

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3. How can celebrations support cultural identity?

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4. Why do people pass traditions down?

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### VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

#### What does 'custom' mean?

- A. A usual way of behaving in a culture or community
- B. A new electronic device
- C. A type of school exam
- D. A place to buy food

#### What is the writer's main idea?

- A. Traditions help people feel connected to culture and history.
- B. Traditions should never change.
- C. Celebrations are only about food.
- D. Young people cannot understand traditions.

## 7. Use the vocabulary

| Task       | What to do                                                                                              |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Speaking 1 | Describe a celebration or tradition in your family or country.                                          |
| Speaking 2 | Discuss this question: Should young people keep old traditions alive?                                   |
| Writing    | Write a short paragraph explaining why one tradition is important.                                      |
| Review     | Return to the confidence table. Choose one item you want to improve and write a clear example sentence. |

## 8. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

- What is an important celebration in your country?
- Why do families pass down traditions?
- Can traditions change and still be meaningful?
- Should schools teach students about local customs?
- How can celebrations build community spirit?

**ANSWER KEY**

# Culture and Traditions

## 3. Match the meaning

1. c = a usual way of behaving in a culture or community
2. e = a belief or activity passed from older people to younger people
3. a = an occasion when relatives meet together
4. f = a person's feeling of belonging to a culture
5. b = a strong feeling of support between people in an area
6. d = join an activity or event

## 6. Check your understanding

1. Food, clothing, stories and music are mentioned.
  2. They might prepare traditional food and have a family gathering.
  3. They remind people where they come from.
  4. To help younger generations understand their history and values.
- MCQ 1: A. A usual way of behaving in a culture or community.
- MCQ 2: A. Traditions help people feel connected to culture and history.