



Culture and Traditions

Multiple matching: local celebrations | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Why do communities keep traditional celebrations?
2. Can traditions change and still remain important?
3. What roles can young people have in local celebrations?
4. Should visitors be encouraged to join traditional events?

Exercise 2 at a glance

Read four short descriptions. For each statement, choose the correct celebration, A-D. One celebration may be used more than once. Read the whole detail carefully before you choose.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the four texts. Which tradition would you most like to experience? Give a reason.

Keeping Traditions Alive

A Lantern evening

Lantern evening began as a small winter event when families carried homemade lanterns through the old streets. The route is shorter now because the town is busier, but children still make lanterns at school using coloured paper and safe battery lights. Older residents sometimes complain that electric lights are less traditional than candles. Organisers say safety matters more, especially when younger children join. The evening now ends with music in the square, which was added to encourage visitors to stay longer and support local cafes. Parents walk at the back of each group so the procession moves safely.

B Bread day

Bread day celebrates a recipe brought to the town by migrant families more than fifty years ago. At first, only a few households baked the bread for neighbours. Now the community centre holds workshops where teenagers learn how to mix the dough and shape it correctly. The recipe is simple, but the timing is difficult, so older volunteers supervise the ovens. The event is not a competition, although people often compare the smell and texture of different loaves. Profits from selling the bread pay for language classes at the centre. Recipe cards include both the original language and a local translation.

C River blessing

The river blessing is held at the start of the fishing season. Local boats gather near the bridge, and a short speech reminds everyone to use the river responsibly. Tourists sometimes expect a colourful festival, but the event is quiet and formal. The most important part is reading the names of people who worked on the river in the past. Recently, school students have added a display about pollution and wildlife. Some older fishermen were unsure at first, but now they say it helps connect the tradition to present-day concerns. The display is placed beside the bridge so visitors read it before leaving.

D Neighbourhood meal

The neighbourhood meal takes place in a long street that is closed to traffic for one afternoon. Families bring food from their own cultures, and everyone shares dishes at large tables. It was started after new residents said they knew very few people nearby. There is no fixed traditional recipe, which makes it different from older festivals. However, the organisers see sharing food as a tradition in itself. Children create name cards for each table, and volunteers make sure people with allergies can identify safe dishes. The meal has become a relaxed way to welcome newcomers. Musicians are invited, but background conversation remains the main focus.

3. Strategy focus

Separate tradition and change

A celebration may include old customs and newer additions. Check whether the statement refers to the original tradition or a recent change.

4. Exam-style matching questions

For each statement, write the correct letter, A, B, C or D, on the line.

No.	Which celebration...	A-D
1	uses a safer modern version of something that was once more traditional
2	helps fund classes for people in the community
3	links an older custom with environmental concerns
4	was created because some residents felt socially disconnected
5	includes a skill that is simple in theory but difficult to time correctly
6	may disappoint visitors who expect something more lively
7	was extended so visitors would support local businesses
8	does not depend on one shared recipe or one cultural background
9	remembers people connected to work done in the area in the past

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: How could each tradition be explained to younger children?
2. Strategy: Highlight the sentence where you found each answer. Label it with the question number.
3. Writing: Describe a tradition that has changed but is still meaningful.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to culture, customs and community.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: Students' own answers, but they should refer to one or more details from the texts.

4. Exam-style matching questions

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. C

Notes for checking

Learners should match the statement to the exact detail in the text.

An option may be used more than once.

If learners disagree, ask them to highlight and label the sentence that proves their answer.