

CONTENTS

Unit	Learning the Skills	Active Listening	Sharing Your Ideas
1 Festivals and Celebrations P2	Listening for Strong and Weak Forms	Topic 1 Diwali: Festival of Lights Topic 2 Holiday Activities Topic 3 British Holidays in Summer	Traditional Chinese Festivals
2 Power of Stories P16	Listening for Specific Information	Topic 1 Myths, Fables, Legends, and Fairy Tales Topic 2 Chinese Zodiac Topic 3 What's in a Fairy Tale?	Chinese Myths and Legends
3 What's Behind a Language? P28	Inferring the Meaning of a Word from the Context	Topic 1 New Words Added to Dictionary Topic 2 The Word "Alien" Topic 3 The Secret Messages of Viking Rune Stones	Chinese Idioms
4 World Englishes P40	Recognizing Accents	Topic 1 Five English Words That Came from Chinese Topic 2 Immigrants Learn to Lose Their Accents Topic 3 Development of the English Language	Accent Discrimination and Accent Elimination
5 Colorful Experiences P52	Listening for Pauses to Understand Thought Groups	Topic 1 Tackling a Tide of Plastic Topic 2 Students Strive to Stave off Spread of Sand Topic 3 Summer Jobs	Colorful Experiences on Campus
6 Academic Activities P64	Listening for Gist	Topic 1 Academic Research and Project Design Topic 2 The Topic of the Dissertation Topic 3 A Survey in 10 Steps	Effective Reading for Academic Study

Unit	Learning the Skills	Active Listening	Sharing Your Ideas
7 Schooling and Education <i>P76</i>	Listening for Opinions	Topic 1 Why Girls Outdo Boys at School? Topic 2 Switching Majors Topic 3 Studying at Oxford	Education—A Matter of Fundamental Importance
8 E-learning <i>P88</i>	Taking Notes—Using a T-chart	Topic 1 Mooc Resources in China Topic 2 The Future of Digital Education Topic 3 Online Classes Might Revolutionize Colleges	Online Education vs. Traditional Education
9 Cities: Tradition and Modernity <i>P100</i>	Noting Down Big Numbers	Topic 1 Cities in Australia Topic 2 Cities in Italy Topic 3 Small Cities, Big Challenges	The Past and Future of a Historical City
10 Animals and Humans <i>P112</i>	Listening for Cause and Effect	Topic 1 Should Zoos Be Banned? Topic 2 Saving the White Rhinos Topic 3 Stories of Animals Saving People’s Lives	The Role of Zoos in Biodiversity Conservation
11 How to Stay Healthy? <i>P124</i>	Distinguishing Facts from Opinions	Topic 1 Sports and Health Topic 2 A Healthier Diet, a Healthier World Topic 3 Walking or Biking?	Choices Today for a Healthier Tomorrow
12 Advertising <i>P136</i>	Listening for Examples	Topic 1 How Do You Feel about Advertising? Topic 2 Live Stream: A New Way of Advertising Topic 3 Why Advertising Agencies?	A Rational Consumer

Festivals and Celebrations

海上升明月，天涯共此时。

——张九龄

As the bright moon shines over the sea, from far away you share this moment with me.

—Zhang Jiuling

To celebrate a festival means: to live out, for some special occasion and in an uncommon manner, the universal assent to the world as a whole.

—Josef Pieper

In this unit, you will learn to:

- use words and expressions related to festivals and celebrations
- listen for strong and weak forms of words
- explore various festivals and their features
- talk about traditional Chinese festivals and celebrations





Lead-in

1 The following words and phrase in Column A will appear in the listening practices in this unit. Get familiar with them by matching them with their definitions in Column B.

A	B
	a to make something more attractive by decorating it with something
	b reflecting or showing a way of behaving or a belief that has been established for a long time among a group of people
1 carnival	c a thing that makes something look more attractive on special occasions
2 costume	d a calendar based on the monthly cycles of the moon's phases, in contrast to solar calendars, whose annual cycles are based only directly on the solar year
3 participate	e a set of clothes worn in order to look like someone or something else, especially for a party or as part of an entertainment
4 commemorate	f a religious holiday with dancing, music, etc., especially in Spain and South America
5 adorn	g a public celebration of a special day or event, usually with bands in the streets and decorated vehicles
6 customary	h to take part in or become involved in an activity
7 decoration	i to remind people of an important event or person from the past with a special action or object
8 fiesta	j a public festival, usually one that happens at a regular time each year, that involves music and dancing in the streets, for which people wear brightly colored clothes
9 parade	
10 lunar calendar	

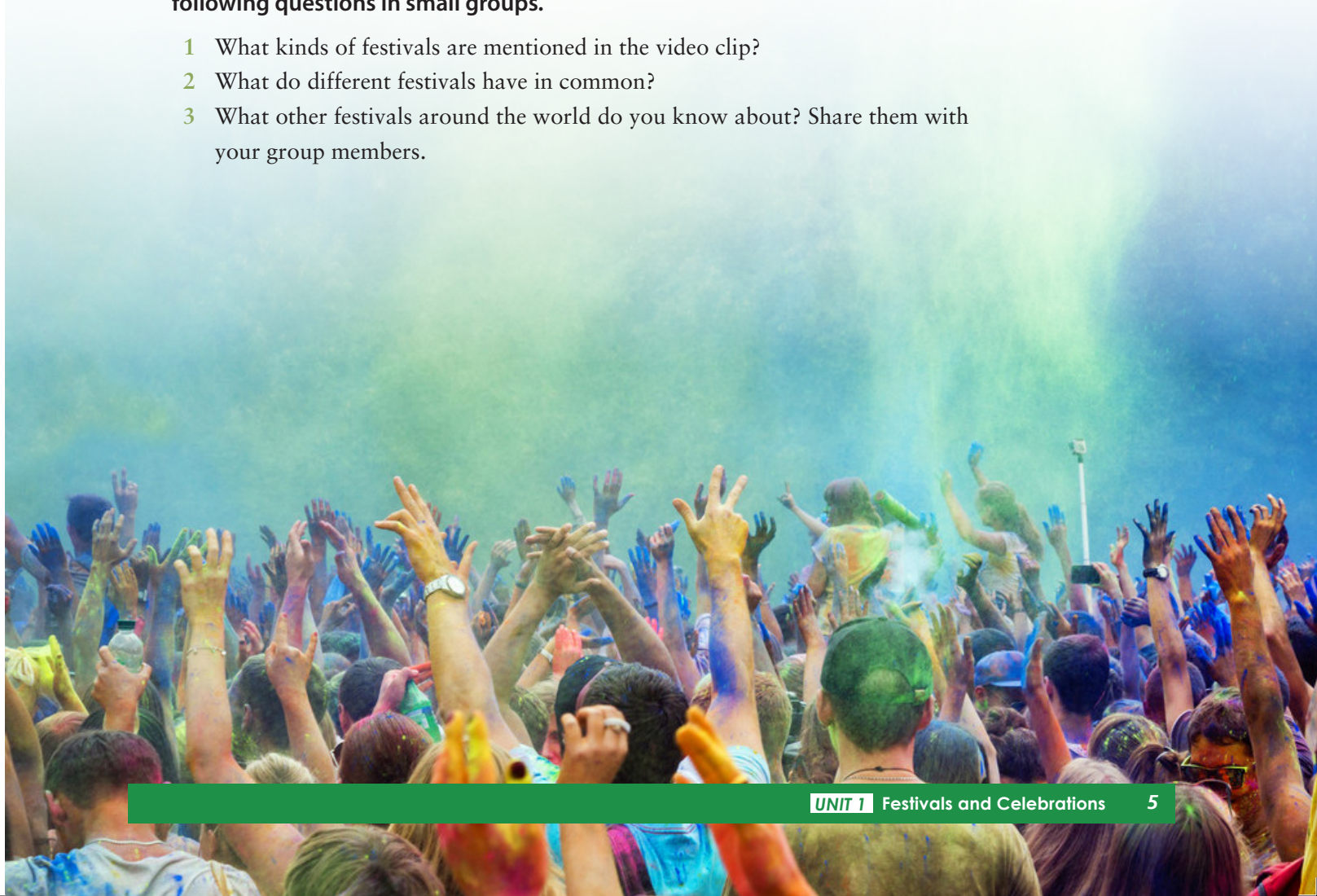
2 Listen to the following statements and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

- 1 On Thanksgiving Day, it is _____ for people to eat turkey.
- 2 _____ San Antonio is an annual festival held in April in San Antonio, and is the city's signature event since 1891.

- 3 Live music and a(n) _____ set an upbeat mood for the official opening.
- 4 The _____ were taken down and put away for next year's Christmas.
- 5 Wearing a superhero _____ doesn't make anyone a superhero who can fly.
- 6 The countdown to the Notting Hill _____ is in its final hours.
- 7 In the park, there is a plaque _____ the town's 150th anniversary.
- 8 Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th month in Chinese _____.
- 9 Everyone in the class is expected to _____ actively in these discussions.
- 10 She sits alone at her dressing table, _____ her hair with roses in anticipation of William's arrival.

3 Throughout history, nations and peoples have marked their calendars with special days to celebrate, commemorate, and memorialize. We set aside some time to reflect on the past and future, to rest physically and spiritually, and to simply have fun. Watch a video clip about festivals and then discuss the following questions in small groups.

- 1 What kinds of festivals are mentioned in the video clip?
- 2 What do different festivals have in common?
- 3 What other festivals around the world do you know about? Share them with your group members.



Learning the Skills

Pretest

Listen to two speakers talking about celebrations and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

Speaker
A

Two of my best friends have their birthday in the same week, so some of us have 1 _____ a surprise party for both of them. One of my friends, Sandra, has a big house, and her parents say we can use it. They're going away, luckily. It's at the end of October, so we're going to 2 _____ with Halloween things, you know, spiders' webs 3 _____. We're going to make up an excuse to get the birthday girls to come round to the house—say we're going to help Sandra move some stuff, or something. Then, as soon as Sandra 4 _____, we're going to turn the lights out and jump out at them! We just have to make sure nobody mentions anything and 5 _____.

Speaker
B

There's a Royal Wedding in June—one of our princes is getting married—so it's a public holiday. Lots of people are having parties in 6 _____, and the people in our street decided to have one too. Well, it's 7 _____ to have a party, isn't it? We're all going to take out tables and chairs and put them together in the middle of the road. We're going to stop cars 8 _____, obviously. We're all going to bring different dishes and share them round. There are quite a lot of different nationalities living 9 _____—people from India, China, and different African countries—so the food should be really interesting. It'll be good to get to know more of 10 _____ too.

Listening Skill

Listening for Strong and Weak Forms

You may have noticed that some words are not always pronounced in the same way. This is because there are strong and weak forms of them. Key content words such as nouns, main verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are usually pronounced in their strong forms, while function words, such as articles (a, an, the), auxiliary verbs (am, is, are, do, does, etc.), modal verbs (will, can, shall, etc.), conjunctions (but, and, than, etc.), prepositions (of, to, for, etc.), pronouns (he, she, we, them, etc.) are usually pronounced in their weak forms.

In weak forms, many of the vowels are reduced to the center of the mouth. For instance, the indefinite article “a” in its weak form is pronounced as /ə/. In some cases, weak forms can be obtained by dropping certain sounds from the pronunciation, such as “him” pronounced as /ɪm/. Listen to the following examples and pay attention to the weak forms.

Grammatical category	Word	Weak form(s)	Example(s)
Article	a	/ə/	a book, in a minute
	an	/ən/, /n/	an hour, in an hour
	the	/ðə/, /ði/	the book, the apple
Auxiliary verb	am	/əm/, /m/	What am I to do?
	is	/z/, /s/, /əz/	He is at home.
	are	/ə/, /ər/	What are you doing?
	was	/wəz/, /wz/	He was a rich man.
	were	/wə/, /wər/	What were you doing?
	have	/həv/, /əv/, /v/	I have been to Shanghai.
	has	/həz/, /əz/, /z/, /s/	The bus has gone.
	had	/həd/, /əd/, /d/	The room had been reserved.
	do	/du/, /də/, /d/	What do you want?
	does	/dəz/	How does it work?
Modal verb	will	/l/, /əl/	I'll do it.
	would	/wəd/, /əd/, /d/	What would you like?
	should	/ʃəd/, /ʃd/	What should I say?
	could	/kəd/, /kd/	I wish I could do something for you.
	must	/məst/, /məs/	He must go now.
	can	/kən/, /kn/	What can I do to make it up to you?
	shall	/ʃəl/, /ʃl/	I shall wait for you.
Conjunction	that	/ðət/, /ðt/	This is the best that I can do.
	as	/əz/	as long as, do as I do
	but	/bət/	It's old but beautiful.
	and	/ənd/, /ən/, /n/	you and me, a cat and a dog
	than	/ðən/, /ðn/	It's more than I want.

(to be continued)

(continued)

Grammatical category	Word	Weak form(s)	Example(s)
Preposition	at	/ət/	at six, at school
	of	/əv/, /v/, /ə/	a lot of money, one of the books
	to	/tə/	Do you want to go? I'd love to.
	for	/fə/, /fər/	for a long time
	from	/frəm/, /frm/	She just came back from Italy.
Pronoun	he	/hi/, /i/	What did he say? He told me a story.
	him	/ɪm/	I write him a letter.
	his	/ɪz/	I love his sense of humor.
	she	/ʃi/	How is she? She's fine.
	her	/ə/, /ər/	I gave her the book.
	me	/mi/	You make me happy.
	we	/wi/	We'd like a drink.
	us	/əs/, /s/	They told us to go.
	you	/ju/, /jə/	What're you doing?
	them	/ðəm/, /ðm/, /m/	If I see them, I'll tell them that.
who	/hu/, /u/	Who are you?	

It should be noted that in some circumstances, some function words shouldn't be pronounced in their weak forms:

- at the end of a sentence
→ Where are you from?
→ Yes, I am.
- combined with "not"
→ I cannot speak German.
- the emphatic form of "do"
→ I do like your hat.
- showing contrasting situations
→ The letter is from him, not to him.

Practice

- 1** Listen to three speakers talking about celebrations and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

Speaker

A

It was Nicky's idea, but we all think it's going to be brilliant. As soon as the last exams **1** _____, we're going to decorate the main hall **2** _____ with paper streamers and Chinese lanterns and things. Steve had this idea of projecting photos of everyone onto a wall, like a slide show. And we've got Jo's brother, who's a professional DJ, coming along. Then there are three different bands **3** _____ play. Ours is **4** _____, because we've been together longest and we've got a great bass player, although I say so myself. So we're on last. It's gonna be cool.

Speaker

B

Every year there's a carnival in August in London. You've probably **5** _____, the Notting Hill Carnival? So this year, me and my friends are going again. We went last year and we had such **6** _____. It's all Afro-Caribbean, with people in amazing costumes and these brilliant steel bands. We don't go in costume, but we **7** _____ a lot. It does get quite crowded, so you have to make sure you stick together. And you have to watch out for pickpockets when there are so many people in the same place. But it's really good fun.

Speaker

C

We're going to **8** _____ for the day and take it up the river. It's my grandparents' golden wedding anniversary, so the whole family is getting together. I'm really **9** _____ seeing my cousins again. I haven't seen them for ages. We've got this huge picnic planned, with loads of different types of sandwiches and salads and **10** _____. My dad has borrowed an ancient gramophone player, you know, what they had before CD players, and **11** _____. So as we go up the river we're going to listen to music from the time my grandparents got married—the swinging sixties!

2 Watch a video clip about the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

Unlike most places in China, 1 _____ of winter signals the beginning of the 2 _____ tourist season in the northern city of Harbin. Every January visitors 3 _____ the city to experience the International Ice and Snow Festival, one of the most 4 _____ winter events on earth. First launched in 1963, the festival features hundreds of gigantic ice and snow sculptures lining the banks of the frozen Songhua River. Carved by up to 15,000 sculptors and designed by local engineering students, the ice structures 5 _____ mythical creatures to historic monuments like the Forbidden City. Sculptors take up to 10 million cubic feet of ice from the Songhua River and carve it into 6 _____ using ice-cutting machines known as swing saws. At night their creations are lit to 7 _____ by multicolored lasers and lanterns. The festival covers an area of 16 acres, lasts for 8 _____, and has turned the city into one of the 9 _____ winter playgrounds.



Active Listening

Topic 1 *Diwali: Festival of Lights*

Watch a video clip and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 In which month may Diwali be celebrated?
 - A. March.
 - B. July.
 - C. October.
- 2 Diwali is the Indian equivalent of _____ to Christians.
 - A. Thanksgiving
 - B. Easter
 - C. Christmas
- 3 What kind of flower will Indians use to decorate their homes?
 - A. Rose.
 - B. Jasmine.
 - C. Lotus.
- 4 When is the best time to visit temples during Diwali?
 - A. Early in the day.
 - B. In the middle of the day.
 - C. At night.
- 5 Which of the following is NOT a Diwali tradition?
 - A. Eating chocolate eggs.
 - B. Dressing in fine new outfits.
 - C. Putting on displays of fireworks.





Topic 2

Holiday Activities

1 Listen to a conversation and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 In Japan, Christmas is romantic just like Valentine's Day for lovers and people often get the day off.
- 2 In America, St. Patrick's Day is a soft holiday because everybody has to go to work and can't do anything that day related to the holiday.
- 3 For Australians, St. Patrick's Day is a drinking holiday but still a regular day.
- 4 Halloween is a traditional holiday in Australia, but not everybody goes trick or treating.
- 5 Megan is a Japanese English teacher.
- 6 The man has barely dressed up for holidays.

2 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Is there any holiday that you will call a soft holiday in China? What will people do on that day?
- 2 What is your favorite holiday activity? Share it with your partner.



Topic 3 *British Holidays in Summer*

- 1** Listen to a passage and match the holidays in Column A with their corresponding information in Column B.

A	B
1 Notting Hill Carnival	a held in Nottinghamshire
2 Robin Hood Festival	b People will dress colorfully and dance.
3 Balloon Fiesta	c held in Bristol
	d the largest street festival in Europe
	e The characters Robin Hood and the evil Sheriff of Nottingham can be seen.
	f held in mid-August

- 2** Listen to the passage again and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why is it that a visit to Britain has become more timely after the Brexit vote?

- 2 What did the Notting Hill Carnival celebrate in early days?

- 3 What performances could be found in Robin Hood Festival?

- 4 If the weather is good, how many hot air balloons will rise up from the Balloon Fiesta's site?

- 5 As the sightseers took pictures of the houses and entered private gardens in the small village of Kidlington, what were the locals doing at the same time?

- 3** Dictation: Listen to the following passage. Altogether the passage will be read to you four times. During the first reading, which will be done at normal speed, listen and try to understand the meaning. For the second and third readings, the passage will be read sentence by sentence, or phrase by phrase, with intervals of 15 seconds. The last reading will be done at normal speed again and during this time you should check your work.

A large rectangular area with a light green border and horizontal lines, intended for writing the dictation response. The area is divided into 20 horizontal lines, providing space for the student to write their work.

Sharing Your Ideas

Traditional Chinese Festivals

Through the festivals and holidays that Chinese people celebrate throughout the year, we can catch a glimpse into the richness and grandeur of China's history and culture. Watch a video clip on five traditional Chinese festivals. Work in small groups and introduce a Chinese festival which impresses you most. You can follow the guidance below:

- What is the festival? When will the festival be celebrated?
- What is its origin? Why do people celebrate the festival?
- How do people celebrate the festival?

Useful expressions for your reference

- fall on
- remember one's ancestors
- in the belief that
- family reunion
- feel connected to
- a detailed cleaning of one's home
- let off firecrackers
- mooncake fillings
- burn incense
- ...is a festival that happens over a few days, usually just before..., in January or February.
- The celebration of...lasts...
- ...is observed either on...or...of...
- ...was first celebrated in...
- Its origin can be traced to...Dynasty.
- The tradition of...comes from...
- Food plays an important role in...
- ...is vital to the festival's cuisine as...
- Sweeping the tomb is not just limited to sweeping, but also includes...
- It is typical/customary to spend the holiday with/by...

