



# English Corner



January 2024

## 1. New Year around the world (1)

As the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, people across the globe come together to welcome the dawn of a new year in their own unique ways.

In the heart of Japan, the tradition of "Joyano-kane" sees Buddhist temples ringing bells 108 times, symbolizing the cleansing of human sins.



Meanwhile, in the vibrant streets of Rio de Janeiro, millions gather for the spectacular fireworks display on Copacabana Beach, dancing to the rhythmic beats of Samba.



In Scotland, the celebration takes a more traditional turn with "Hogmanay," featuring lively street parties and the custom of "first-footing," where the first person to enter a home after midnight brings symbolic gifts for good luck.

Down under in Sydney, Australia, the iconic fireworks over the Sydney Harbour Bridge create a breathtaking spectacle that captivates millions.

As we usher in the New Year, let's take a moment to appreciate the rich tapestry of traditions that color our global celebrations, reminding us of the diversity that makes our world truly special.

Author: Bartosz Dzieran

## 2. New Year around the world (2)

31 December is the last day of each year. A lot of people celebrate, wait until midnight, and make lists of things they want to change the new year. However every country has its own traditions and celebrations.

Australia is one of the first countries to welcome the new year. It is famous for its spectacular fireworks displays. The famous Sydney Harbour fireworks are attracting people from around the world.

Many Australians celebrate with barbecues, picnics, and beach gatherings.



In South Africa, New Year's Eve is celebrated with various events and parties. Many people attend outdoor concerts, while others gather with friends and family for festive meals.

Fireworks displays are common in major cities, such as Cape Town and Johannesburg.



Author: Marysia Hejduk

### 3. New Year around the world (3)

#### ATHENS- GREECE

On New Year's Eve, locals and tourists spend time on the streets of the center of Athens, that is Ermou, and in Syntagma Square, where the stage of the special event is being set. Everywhere in the streets you can see "music bonfires" and street performances, and at midnight fireworks light up the Acropolis.



#### BARCELONA - SPAIN

In Barcelona, the streets are full of groups of young people, music and cars greeting the new year with horns. In bars, pubs and discos there are New Year's Eve parties where people dance until dawn. Also in many hotels and restaurants there are special evenings with dinner, eating grapes and then dancing and games.

#### BERLIN-GERMANY

Streets of Berlin on New Year's Eve During the day on December 31, Berliners work, go to school or prepare to celebrate, but it is not customary to have it a day off. It happens that families or friends get together for dinner, but evening parties are something else entirely. Clubs organize their own games, often themed.

Author: Tosia Nowak

### 4. New Year around the world (4)

In Japan New Year's Eve tradition is that at midnight people laugh because they believe that it will bring them good luck, Japanese people go to sleep early and they wake up before sunrise to watch it.

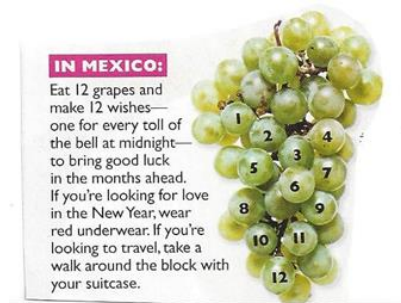


The photo above shows traditional Japanese food.

In France, tradition is to send new year's greeting cards instead of Christmas cards. On the New Year's Eve the French like to have costume parties - how fun! It is tradition to kiss under the mistletoe. At midnight French do as much noise as possible to frighten bad spirits away from coming in the new year.



In Mexico tradition is to eat 12 grapes before midnight, Mexicans eat 12 grapes with each chime of the clock's bell to bring good luck in new year. Another new year tradition is throwing a bucket of water out the window. Throwing a bucket of water out the window signifies throwing out the old year and welcoming the new.



Author: Ala Przybysz

## 5. New Year around the world (5)

There are a lot of countries and regions, cultures and traditions too. Obviously, we don't celebrate New Year in the same way. In this article I'll give you some examples of how traditions of New Year's Eve celebrations look like in various countries.

In Spain people have a big family dinner. At midnight they eat 12 grapes while the clock strikes 12 and usually wear something red to welcome the New Year.

People from Philippines open all doors and windows to allow negative energy leave and good energy enter their houses.

People in England, on New Year's night eat their typical dessert- Christmas pudding.

Polish people, like Americans, usually drink alcohol and dance all night. This huge party ends in the morning.

Japanese people spend New Year in a calm way. They don't party at all. They go to bed early, to watch the first sunrise of the next year.

Some traditions are similar in most countries like watching fireworks or staying awake till midnight. There are also many differences – maybe you will spend next New Year's Eve somewhere else or at least will try out different traditions at your own home.



Author: Malgosia Skonieczna



## 6. New Year around the world (6)

Throughout the world, New Year's Eve is celebrated with a meal in the company of friends and family. In Spain, Portugal, and much of Latin America (such as Colombia), for example, it's 12 grapes or raisins and in Italy, 12 spoonfuls of lentils—one with each of the 12 chimes of the clock at midnight.



The French usher in the best New Year with a stack of pancakes. Germans prefer marzipan shaped into a pig for luck, whereas in the Netherlands, people eat doughnuts and ring-shaped foods.

Estonians feast as many as 7, 9, or even 12 times on New Year's Eve, as they believe for each meal consumed, the person gains the strength of that many men the following year.

Across the U.S. South, communities dig into collard greens and black-eyed peas for luck and prosperity on New Year's Day.



Fun Facts:

1. Collard greens vegetables are chosen for their color—the green symbolizes money.

2. The first known celebration of a new year took place in Ancient Babylon nearly 4,000 years ago.

3. New's Eve Day and New Year's Eve are both in the top five most popular days for car theft. Nearly 2,500 cars are stolen on January 1st each year.

Author: Ernest Chen

## 7. A letter to a friend (1)

Hi!

I'm very sorry, I haven't written for so long. I hope you are fine. I'm writing to you to tell you about the New Year in my country. In Poland we don't have specialty traditions, but we have big family or friends parties like in your country and many firework shows like in France. My family on New Year's Eve played board games, watched films about Christmas or winter and danced. We ate cheesecake and special salads. I made a New Year's resolution: I will try to stress less and smile more.

Write back soon.



Author: Nadia Burda

## 8. A letter to a friend (2)

Hi!

How are you?

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and tell you a little bit about New Year's Eve in Poland. In my language, it is called Sylwester.

That day we drink Piccolo or champagne, listen to songs and let off fireworks. Some people party at home, others go out for dinner and dancing.

I spent last New Year's Eve at home. While waiting until midnight, I played videogames. My dad made a delicious pizza and some special cakes.

My New Year's resolutions are to gamble less, not eat fast food and do more sports. What about yours?

Warm regards to you and your family. I hope to hear from you soon.

Author: Jan Wudarczyk

## 9. A letter to a friend (3)

Hey,

I hope you're doing well! I wanted to share with you how we celebrate New Year's Eve and New Year in Poland, as well as tell you about how I spent last New Year's Eve and my New Year's resolutions.

In Poland, New Year's Eve is a time for lively celebrations. Many people attend private parties at homes or in clubs, where they dance, celebrate, and eagerly await the arrival of the New Year. At midnight,

we exchange good wishes and often participate in traditional activities like jumping over bonfires or watching fireworks displays.



Last year, I spent New Year's Eve at home with my closest friends. We prepared delicious food, listened to music, and had a great time together until the early hours of the morning. It was a fantastic evening filled with joy and laughter.

As for me New Year's resolutions, I've decided to focus on leading a healthier lifestyle. I plan to incorporate regular exercise, healthier eating habits, and dedicating more time to my hobbies and interests.

How did you spend your last New Year's Eve? What are your plans and resolutions for the New Year?

Take care.

Author: Ignacy Mirecki

## 10. A letter to a friend (4)

Hi,

I would like to write you today about my New Year's celebration. People in Poland usually go out this evening. Sometimes they take part in big events, sometimes at smaller parties in their flats. I also did it last years. But this year was different. In the afternoon I went to the cinema with my mum and sister to watch "Pan Kleks". In the evening

our friend visited us and we were playing for two hours. Afterwards we watched fireworks and played outside shortly. When we came back home we went to bed. As soon as I got up in the morning I wrote me new year resolutions. Some of them are as follows: I will eat less sweets, I will learn more and I will help more at home.

Maybe you can write me about yours.



Author: Basia Wdowiak

