



Holidays and Special Days

VOCABULARY:

- I'm spending some **time off** with my family in Italy?
- I was beginning to feel that I needed a **break**.
- Thursday is his **day off**.
- Luke was forced to cancel the **family vacation** to Acapulco.
- I've applied for three days' **leave**.

QUESTIONS:

1. Name three most celebrated holidays in your country.
2. What is your favorite holiday festival? When is this holiday celebrated?
3. What does the holiday stand for? Why is this holiday celebrated?
4. Is it celebrated as a family or a group? Does your family celebrate this holiday?
5. What are some of the things that are done to show that this holiday is being observed?
6. Are there special foods connected with the holiday?
7. Is gift giving a part of this holiday? Are there specific types of gifts to be given?
8. Are there parties? Are these for adults, children or both?
9. What do you usually do for this holiday?
10. Do you celebrate holidays differently now than you did when you were a child?



VOCABULARY:

- You look a bit ***under the weather***.
- A light ***drizzle*** had started by the time we left.
- Tokyo is extremely ***humid*** in mid-summer .
- It's a cold, ***misty*** morning.
- It should be generally ***fair*** and warm for the next few days.

QUESTIONS:

1. Which season is the most beautiful or the most comfortable for you and why?
2. What crops or fruits are produced in each seasons in your country?
3. Can you think of other activities in which one season may be better than another?
4. What are the different kinds of weather? What is the weather like in your country for each season?
5. Which do like better hot weather or cold weather?
6. Do you have many disasters in your country which are caused by weather?
7. What's the average temperature in your country in the summer time? How about in the winter?
8. Do you get tornadoes or typhoons where you are from?
9. How does weather affect your attitude? How does it affect your lifestyle?
10. What kind of climate do you prefer when choosing a place to go on vacation?



D3

Gardening

VOCABULARY:

- I really like the house especially for its *landscape*.
- He got so busy *trimming* off the rotten wood.
- I think the roses need *pruning*.
- It's time to *mow* the lawn again.
- I have a constant battle against *weeds*.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of gardening do you like?
2. How much time do you spend in the garden?
3. Do you think gardening is good for your health?
4. What are the names of some famous gardens in your city?
5. Does your house have a garden?
6. Is there a flower store near your house?
7. What are some vegetables which you grow in your garden?
8. What are some things that need to be done in the garden in the spring?
9. What are the some names of gardening tools?
10. Would you prefer to have a flower garden or a vegetable garden? Why?



VOCABULARY:

- This carton is made of **biodegradable** plastic.
- There is a major problem with **Deforestation** in the Amazon and many tribes are losing their homes.
- **Organic farming** is better for the environment.
- Retailers can influence consumers by promoting **eco-friendly** products and ideas in their shops.
- **Recycling** is important to help protect our environment.

QUESTIONS:

1. Are there litter laws where you live? If so, what is the penalty for littering?
2. Do you think cars should be banned from city centers?
3. Do you think people should recycle newspapers? Why or why not?
4. How has the world changed since you were a child? (technology, values, environment, health)
5. How often is garbage collected in your neighborhood?
6. How is pollution affecting the environment of Japan today?
7. What can large cities do to improve their air quality?
8. What can we do to protect forests?
9. Do you think global warming is real? Do you think this is an effect of pollution?
10. Which is more important, increasing people's standard of living, or protecting the environment?



VOCABULARY:

- That bag is **biodegradable**, it will completely dissolve in a year for now.
- **Smog** is a major problem in some of the cities.
- The Japanese **recycle** more than half of their waste paper.
- The infection was probably caused by swimming in a **contaminated** water.
- The government is thinking on how to reduce **noise pollution**.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a lot of pollution in your country? How bad is pollution in your place?
2. What are the different forms of pollution do you know?
3. What harm does pollution do to the environment?
4. Name some of the causes of pollution.
5. What simple, everyday thing could help reduce pollution most?
6. What do you think of noise pollution? Have you experienced?
7. Which bothers you more, noise pollution from traffic or environment pollution from traffic?
8. How does pollution affect our health?
9. Are there litter laws where you live? If so, what is the penalty for littering?
10. How has the world changed since you were a child?



Adoption

VOCABULARY:

- They've got two **adopted** children and one of their own.
- Nazareth house was an **orphanage** run by nuns in Glasgow, Scotland.
- As a baby he'd been **abandoned** by his mother.
- Man gets seven year prison sentence for **child abuse**.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is adoption common in your country?
2. What do you think of adoption?
3. Is it better to adopt a baby or an older child?
4. Do you think parents who adopt have the same kind of love for their adopted child as natural parents have with their child?
5. Should an adopted child have the same legal right as a non-adopted child?
6. When should you tell a child that he or is adopted?
7. What happened if the biological parents turn up ten years later and ask for their child back?
8. Should same sex couples or single people be allowed to adopt?
9. Would you prefer to adopt a child from your own country or a very poor country?
10. Do you think international adoption would be useful solution for under-populated countries?



VOCABULARY:

- Soon as the actor got out of the stage, he was followed by several **paparazzi**.
- I saw a very famous **newscaster** in the shopping mall.
- The news of his death was splashed in **headlines** across all the newspapers.
- The issue has been much discussed in the **media**.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you read newspapers or watch news on TV? How often?
2. What is your favorite section of the newspaper to read?
3. Which kind of media is the best? Why? (e.g. newspaper, TV, internet etc.)
4. Do you think the news tells us correct information?
5. What do you think is the most important thing the news should report?
6. Do you think the news influences people too much?
7. What is the biggest headline in your country now?
8. Do you like to keep up with current events?
9. Will newspaper disappear in the future?
10. Do you think that reading newspaper is a good way to improve your English?



VOCABULARY:

- The wife of a rich businessman has been **kidnapped** from her home.
- He was caught **shoplifting** by a store detective.
- They spent ten years in **jail** for **fraud**.
- He was **arrested** when customs officers found drugs in his bag.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is crime a problem in your country? What are the common crimes in your place?
2. Are some parts of your country considered more dangerous than other cities?
3. Have you ever been a victim of a crime?
4. Have you ever witnessed a crime? What happened?
5. What do you think are the common reasons for crime?
6. What did your government do to prevent or reduce crime?
7. Do you think abortion is a crime?
8. Do you think policeman should be allowed to carry guns?
9. Do you think capital punishment is a good idea?
10. Do you think there will be more or less crime in the future?



VOCABULARY:

- The whole system was **corrupt**, every official she approached wanted money before helping her.
- He's spending a lot of his time at the moment **campaigning** for the Liberal Party.
- Most people have bad impressions towards **politicians**.
- The government has promised to uphold the principles of **democracy**.
- Local government **elections** will take place in May.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the current leader in your country?
2. Do you think the current official is popular with the people? Why?
3. What do you think are the most important qualities of a good leader?
4. What do you think of becoming a politician?
5. What are the strongest political parties in Japan?
6. Do you believe in democracy?
7. How often do you have elections in your country?
8. Are there women politicians in your country?
9. How old do you have to be to vote in your country?
10. What would you do if you could run the country for a week of term office?



Supersitions

VOCABULARY:

- What she did was **beyond belief**.
- Did it really happened or it's just an **urban legend**?
- The traditional **notion** of marriage goes back thousands of years.
- It's a news reporter's job to separate **fact** from fiction.
- The children were **lucky** to survive the fire which destroyed their home.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you believe that dead people come back to life as ghosts?
2. Is there an area where you live (park, house, etc.) that is known to be haunted?
If so, what is the story or legend that makes people believe this area is haunted? Have you ever visited this place?
3. What is the scariest ghost story you know?
4. What are some superstitions in your country?
5. A four-leaf clover is often considered lucky. What are some other things which are considered lucky.
6. Why do some people need fortunetellers?
7. Do you think that some people can predict the future?
8. Do you believe that blood types can tell what a person's personality is?
9. Do you believe the predictions contained within your horoscope?
10. Do you believe in coincidences? Why or why not?