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Understanding English Pronunciation

Unit 9 – Festivals and Celebrations

(Answer pages are included)

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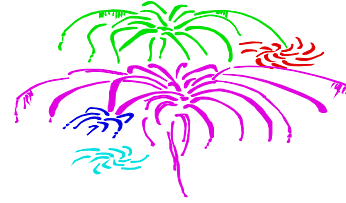
Spelling and Pronunciation for English Language Learners

Rhyming Stories

Unit 9

Festivals and Celebrations

In this unit you will:











- Discuss the topic of Festivals and Celebrations.
- Practise distinguishing between the sounds /e/ (as in pen) and /ei/ as in (pain)
- Learn about changes in word stress patterns
- Analyse the link between spoken and written English
ie. ways of spelling the sounds /e/ and /ei/

Preliminary Listening

Note: The second sound in each pair demonstrated below is a diphthong sound /ei/ (two sounds linked together).
In diphthong sounds, the first sound is more prominent than the second sound.



Listen to the vowel sounds in the following words. Can you hear the difference?

/e/ wet 	/e/ pen 	/e/ sell 	/e/ well 
/ei/ weight 	/ei/ pain 	/ei/ sail 	/ei/ whale 

Note: The sound /e/ as in the word 'wet', and /ei/ as in 'weight', may be represented with different symbols in your dictionary, so check the words in your dictionary now. What symbols does your dictionary use?

Part 1 - Introduction to the topic

Think about the topic before turning the page to read and listen to the text.

The speaker will talk about *Festivals and Celebrations*. What do you think she will say?

a) Festivals are celebrated mainly in Asia.

or

b) There is a festival happening somewhere in the world almost everyday of the year.

Check your answer by listening to Part 1A.

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

In Part 1, focus on *what* the speaker says about the topic.
You will focus on *how* words are pronounced in Part 2.



1A Listen as you read the text about *Festival and Celebrations*.



Festivals and Celebrations



Festivals and celebrations have been held since the beginning of history to celebrate special events. In ancient times, people celebrated the beginning of spring and held festivals to celebrate successful harvests. This century people celebrate for many different reasons. Some people celebrate special days to remember saints or important religious events. In some places, important leaders are hailed when national independence days are held. Celebrations are often a time when gifts are sent and family and friends get together.

In multicultural countries, where there's a mixture of different races and religions, a great variety of interesting and exciting festivals are celebrated every year. In fact, there is a festival or celebration taking place in some city in the world almost every day of the year.



1B Write the underlined words in the text next to its correct meaning below.

The first one has been done as an example.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|-------|
| 1) saluted, greeted, praised | <u>hailed</u> _____ | 5) of a long time ago | _____ |
| 2) things that happen | _____ | 6) happening | _____ |
| 3) holy people | _____ | 7) public celebration | _____ |
| 4) nations/people of similar appearance and features | _____ | 8) self-government, not controlled by another | _____ |



1B Listen and check your answers to 1B. Repeat the words after the speaker.



1C Discuss the following questions

- 1) For what reasons have people held festivals and celebrations in the past?
- 2) For what reasons do people hold festivals and celebrations at the present time?
- 3) Can you think of examples of religious, cultural or historical celebrations which are held in your area?

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

Part 2 - Focus on Pronunciation



2A Listen to the words from the text. Is the underlined sound /e/ or /ei/?

special events ancient held hailed century independence days
 races great place sent saint celebrate celebration



Replay the recording of 2A. Pause the recording after each word.



Write the words in the correct columns below, according to the underlined sound.
 Don't be confused by spelling. You need to listen to the *pronunciation* of the words!

1) Sound /e/ as in the word <u>p</u> en	2) Sound /ei/as in the word <u>p</u> ain
<i>spe<u>c</u>ial</i>	

Check your answers on page 143 before continuing.

2B Syllables and Word Stress - Revision



Replay the recording of 2A and notice how many syllables each word contains.



Write the words in the correct columns below.

In the words with more than one syllable:

- 1) underline the syllable with the *main* stress,
- 2) write /ə/ above the unstressed, weak syllables.

Pronunciation note:

Words with two or more syllables will have one syllable that is stressed more than the other syllables. This is called the *main* or *primary* stress.

Some long words have *secondary* stress also. Your dictionary Pronunciation Key will show how secondary stress is indicated in long words listed in *your* dictionary.

<i>words with one syllable</i>	<i>words with two syllables</i>	<i>words with three syllables</i>	<i>words with four syllables</i>

Check your answers on page 143, then practise pronouncing the words correctly.

Notice the *main* or *primary* stress is different in the words *celebrate* and *celebration*.
 When a suffix such as 'tion' is added to a word, the *main* stress moves to the syllable immediately before the suffix.

eg. \downarrow celebrate celebration \downarrow

In Part 7, you will see more examples of moving word stress.

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

In Part 3, focus on *what* the speaker says about the topic.
You will focus on *how* words are pronounced in Part 4.

Part 3 - Extending the topic

3A Listen to the extended text on *Festivals and Celebrations*.



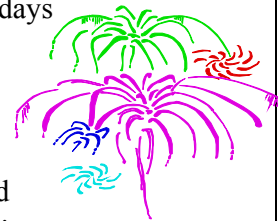
Festivals and Celebrations

Festivals and celebrations have been held since the beginning of history to celebrate special events. In ancient times, people celebrated the beginning of spring and held festivals to celebrate successful harvests. This century people celebrate for many different reasons. Some people celebrate special days to remember saints or important religious events. In some places, important leaders are hailed when national independence days are held. Celebrations are often a time when gifts are sent and family and friends get together.

In multicultural countries, where there's a mixture of different races and religions, a great variety of interesting and exciting festivals are celebrated every year. In fact, there is a festival or celebration taking place in some city in the world almost every day of the year.

In some celebrations, people wear their national dress, decorate their homes and public places and play special games. Many festivals involve parades where people are entertained by people dressed as animals to tell special tales or legends. Religious celebrations are often a time to pray and remember past events.

When celebrating special events, people around the world use different ways to measure the time in a year when the special day will be remembered. In other words, they use different calendars to mark special events. For example, the Hindu and Muslim calendars are based on the phases of the Moon, whereas the calendar used mainly in western society (known as the Gregorian calendar), is based on the timing of the earth's journey around the Sun. As a result, many people today use the Gregorian calendar for business and day to day living, but use their religious calendar to mark the special dates of festivals and religious celebrations.



3B Extending your vocabulary



Find and underline the following words in the last two paragraphs of text in 3A.

dress	*decorate	games	many	parades	*entertained
tales	legends	pray	measure	based (on)	phases

* Pronunciation note: The words *decorate* and *entertained* contain both sounds /e/ and /ei/
eg. *de*corate *ent*ertained

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations



Match the words you have underlined in the text with the correct meaning listed below. One has been done as an example.

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|
| 1) make more attractive/beautiful | <u>decorate</u> _____ | 7) clothing | _____ |
| 2) amused/pleased | _____ | 8) interesting stories | _____ |
| 3) activities played for fun | _____ | 9) established on | _____ |
| 4) to request or thank God | _____ | 10) calculate | _____ |
| 5) periods of time in the development of something | _____ | 11) a lot of | _____ |
| 6) historical stories (which may not be true) | _____ | 12) public processions | _____ |



3B Listen and check your answers to 3B. Repeat the words after the speaker.

Part 4 - Analysing the sounds

◀◀ **Replay 3B and listen to the pronunciation of the underlined syllable in each word.**
(If necessary, pause the recording after each word.)



Write the words in the correct columns below, then check your answers on page 143.

1) Words with the sound /e/ as in <i>pen</i>	2) Words with the sound /ei/ as in <i>pain</i>
<i>de<u>cor</u>ate</i>	<i>ent<u>er</u>tained</i>

Part 5 - Understanding the link between spoken and written English

Spelling Lists - Ways of *spelling the sound /e/* (as in the word red)

e	ea	a	other spelling
h <u>e</u> ld sp <u>e</u> cial	me <u>ea</u> sure we <u>ea</u> ther	<u>a</u> ny m <u>a</u> ny	s <u>ai</u> d

Spelling Lists - Ways of *spelling the sound /ei/* (as in the word day)

a...e	ay	ai	ei	ea
pl <u>a</u> ce par <u>a</u> de	da <u>ay</u> alw <u>ay</u> s	wa <u>ai</u> t compl <u>ai</u> n	ei <u>ei</u> t wei <u>ei</u> t	gr <u>ea</u> t br <u>ea</u> k

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

Part 6 - Spelling Check- Dictation



Listen to the *Festivals and Celebrations* text again.



Complete the text with the correct words. (Pause the recording to write the words.)

Festivals and Celebrations

Festivals and celebrations have been _____ since the beginning of history to celebrate _____ events. In ancient times, people celebrated the beginning of spring and held festivals to celebrate successful harvests. This century people celebrate for _____ different reasons. Some people celebrate special _____ to remember saints or important religious events. In some _____, important leaders are _____ when national independence days are _____. Celebrations are often a time when gifts are _____ and family and _____ get together.

In multicultural countries, where there's a mixture of different _____ and religions, a _____ variety of interesting and exciting festivals are celebrated every year. In fact, there is a festival or celebration taking place in some city in the world almost every day of the year.

Part 7 - Listening Practice



7A Listen to someone asking questions about cultural celebrations.



Complete the questions as you listen. (Pause the recording while you write.)

- 1) _____ popular cultural celebration?
- 2) _____ celebrate it?
- 3) _____ celebrate it?
- 4) _____ celebrating it?

Check your answers on page 143 before continuing.

7B Review - Features of spoken English



Replay the recording of 7A. Pause the recording after each sentence.

Which words are difficult to hear because they're unstressed or reduced?



- 1) Write a schwa symbol /ə/ above the unstressed, reduced words.
- 2) Underline the words with stressed syllables in each question.
- 3) Draw a box around the words that the speakers make most prominent.



Check your answers on page 144, then practise asking the questions.

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

Moving word stress

In spoken English, the *main* or *primary* stress in a word sometimes moves when the function of the word changes; for example, when a verb, *celebrate* changes to a noun, '*celebration*'.

7C Listen to the following words, and underline the syllable which has the *main* stress.

The first one has been done as an example.

<i>verb</i>	<i>noun</i>
eg. <u>celebrate</u>	celebr <u>ation</u>
educate	education
examine	examination
communicate	communication

Note: In words ending 'ion', the main word stress is on the syllable *before* the suffix 'ion'.

7D The following words refer to places or nationalities. Complete the table below by writing the words in the correct column. Some have been done as examples.

Japan	Italian	China	Portugal	Chinese
Canada	Tonga	Egypt	Japanese	Italy
	Egyptian	Canadian	Portuguese	Tongan

Country	Nationality	Country	Nationality
1) <i>Japan</i>	→ <i>Japanese</i>	5)	→ <i>Chinese</i>
2) <i>Egypt</i>	→	6)	→ <i>Portuguese</i>
3)	→ <i>Italian</i>	7) <i>Tonga</i>	→
4) <i>Canada</i>	→		

7E Listen and check your answers.

The speaker will say the country and then the nationality.



Underline the stressed syllables in each word as you listen.

Check your answers on page 144.

More about moving word stress:

In 7C you learnt that primary word stress may move as the function of a word changes. Another example of this is when nouns (*names of places/things*) become adjectives (*describing someone/something*).

For example, in the noun, *Japan*, the *second* syllable has the main stress. However, in the adjective *Japanese*, the *third* syllable has the main stress.

Note: Moving stress patterns do not apply in every case.

For example, in '*Tonga*' and '*Tongan*', the stress is on the *same* syllable in both words.

Remember: Your dictionary will show how to pronounce word stress correctly. If necessary, revise *Using Your Dictionary* in Unit 3, Part 2C.

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

Distinguishing between the sounds /e/ and /ei/ in fluent speech



Underline the words which are different in sentences a) and b) below.

The first one has been done as an example.



7F Listen and tick the sentence, a) or b), that you hear.

- 1) a) It's better not to make the children wet.
 b) It's better not to make the children wait.
- 2) a) Where's the pen?
 b) Where's the pain?
- 3) a) Where did you sell the boat?
 b) Where did you sail the boat?
- 4) a) Did he tell you about the debt? (debt = money owed)
 b) Did he tell you about the date?
- 5) a) They saw the well near the rocks.
 b) They saw the whale near the rocks.
- 6) a) He tested each variety of wine.
 b) He tasted each variety of wine.
- 7) a) It's too hot here. Let's stand in the shed.
 b) It's too hot here. Let's stand in the shade.
- 8) a) Could you put some pepper on the table please? (pepper = spice added to food)
 b) Could you put some paper on the table please?

Check your answers on page 144.

7G Revision exercises



Replay the recording of 7F. Pause the recording after each sentence.

Underline the stressed words in each sentence.



Draw a box around the words that the speakers make most prominent.

Note: In sentence 6) above, the speaker puts equal stress on each content word, therefore no word is made more prominent than the others.

Check your answers on page 144.



Practise pronouncing the sentences correctly. Work with a partner.

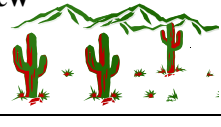
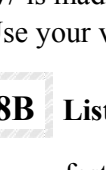
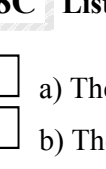
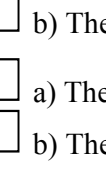

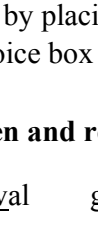
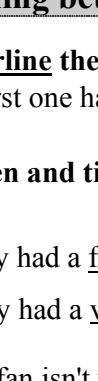
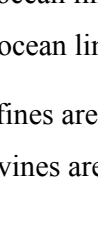
- One person should say sentence a) or b).
- The other person should decide which sentence he/she hears.

Unit 9 - Festivals and Celebrations

Part 8 - Sounds /f/ and /v/

The sounds /f/ and /v/ are sometimes confused by learners of English.

8A Listen to the consonant sounds in contrast. Can you hear the difference?

/f/ few 	/f/ fan 	/f/ fast 	/f/ fines 
/v/ view 	/v/ van 	/v/ vast 	/v/ vines 

- /f/ is made by placing your top teeth on your lower lip. Gently blow air out between your teeth and lip. Don't use your voice. /f/ is a voiceless consonant sound.
- /v/ is made by placing your top teeth on your lower lip. Use your voice box to make the sound /v/.

8B Listen and repeat the following words from the *Festivals and Celebrations* text.

festival gifts harvests events every variety different

Distinguishing between the sounds /f/ and /v/ in fluent speech



Underline the words that are different in sentences a) and b) below.

The first one has been done as an example.

8C Listen and tick the sentence, a) or b), that you hear.

- a) They had a few of the games at their house.
 b) They had a view of the games at their house.
- a) The fan isn't working properly.
 b) The van isn't working properly.
- a) The ocean liner is fast and comfortable for passengers.
 b) The ocean liner is vast and comfortable for passengers.
- a) The fines are much higher than last year.
 b) The vines are much higher than last year.

Check your answers on page 144.



Practise pronouncing the sentences correctly. Work with a partner.

- One person should say sentence a) or b).
- The other person should decide which sentence he/she hears.

Unit 9 – Festival and Celebrations – Answers

Part 1 Introduction to the topic

b) There is a festival happening somewhere in the world almost everyday of the year.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|---|---------------------|
| 1B 1) saluted, greeted, praised | <u>hailed</u> | 5) of a long time ago | <u>ancient</u> |
| 2) things that happen | <u>events</u> | 6) happening | <u>taking place</u> |
| 3) holy people | <u>saints</u> | 7) public celebration | <u>festival</u> |
| 4) nations/people of similar appearance and features | <u>races</u> | 8) self-government, not controlled by another | <u>independence</u> |

Part 2A

1) Sound /e/ as in the word <u>pen</u>	2) Sound /ei/ as in the word <u>pain</u>
<u>s</u> pecial e <u>v</u> ents h <u>e</u> ld ce <u>n</u> turey in <u>d</u> e <u>p</u> ende <u>n</u> ce se <u>n</u> t	<u>a</u> ncient sa <u>i</u> nt ha <u>i</u> led ce <u>l</u> ebra <u>t</u> ion da <u>y</u> s ra <u>c</u> es gr <u>e</u> at pla <u>c</u> e

2B

words with one syllable	words with two syllables	words with three syllables	words with four syllables
held sent ha <u>i</u> led sa <u>i</u> nt da <u>y</u> s gr <u>e</u> at pla <u>c</u> e	/ə/ <u>s</u> pecial /ə/ <u>e</u> vents /ə/ <u>a</u> ncient /ə/ <u>r</u> aces	/ə/ <u>c</u> entury /ə/ <u>c</u> elebrate	/ə/ /ə/ in <u>d</u> e <u>p</u> ende <u>n</u> ce /ə/ /ə/ ce <u>l</u> ebra <u>t</u> ion

Part 3B

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) make more attractive/beautiful | <u>decorate</u> | 7) clothing | <u>dress</u> |
| 2) amused/pleased | <u>entertained</u> | 8) interesting stories | <u>tales</u> |
| 3) activities played for fun | <u>games</u> | 9) established on | <u>based on</u> |
| 4) to request or thank God | <u>pray</u> | 10) calculate | <u>measure</u> |
| 5) periods of time in the development of something | <u>phases</u> | 11) a lot of | <u>many</u> |
| 6) historical stories (which may not be true) | <u>legends</u> | 12) public processions | <u>parades</u> |

Part 4

1) Words with the sound /e/ (as in <u>pen</u>)	2) Words with the sound /ei/ (as in <u>pain</u>)
<u>d</u> ecorate <u>l</u> egends <u>d</u> ress <u>m</u> easure <u>m</u> any	ente <u>r</u> tained ba <u>s</u> ed (on) <u>g</u> ames pa <u>r</u> ades <u>p</u> ray <u>p</u> hases <u>t</u> ales

Part 7A 1) What's your most popular cultural celebration?

- 2) When do you celebrate it?
- 3) How do you celebrate it?
- 4) What's the main reason for celebrating it?

Unit 9 – Festival and Celebrations – Answers

- /ə/
- 7B 1) What's your most popular cultural celebration?
- /ə/ /ə/ /ə/
- 2) When do you celebrate it?
- /ə/ /ə/ /ə/
- 3) How do you celebrate it?
- /ə/ /ə/ /ə/
- 4) What's the main reason for celebrating it?

7C	<i>verb</i>	<i>noun</i>
	eg. <u>celebrate</u>	<u>celebration</u>
	<u>educate</u>	<u>education</u>
	<u>examine</u>	<u>examination</u>
	<u>communicate</u>	<u>communication</u>

7D & 7E

1) <u>Japan</u>	<u>Japanese</u>	5) <u>China</u>	<u>Chinese</u>
2) <u>Egypt</u>	<u>Egyptian</u>	6) <u>Portugal</u>	<u>Portuguese</u>
3) <u>Italy</u>	<u>Italian</u>	7) <u>Tonga</u>	<u>Tongan</u>
4) <u>Canada</u>	<u>Canadian</u>		

7F

- 1) b) It's better not to make the children wait.
- 2) b) Where's the pain?
- 3) a) Where did you sell the boat?
- 4) b) Did he tell you about the date?
- 5) a) They saw the well near the rocks.
- 6) b) He tasted each variety of wine.
- 7) b) It's too hot here. Let's stand in the shade.
- 8) a) Could you put some pepper on the table please? (pepper = spice added to food)

7G

- 1) b) It's better not to make the children wait.
- 2) b) Where's the pain?
- 3) a) Where did you sell the boat?
- 4) b) Did he tell you about the date?
- 5) a) They saw the well near the rocks.
- 6) b) He tasted each variety of wine. Note: In sentence 6) the speaker puts equal stress on each content word in the utterance, therefore no word is made more prominent than the others.
- 7) b) It's too hot here. Let's stand in the shade.
- 8) a) Could you put some pepper on the table please? (pepper = spice added to food)

Part 8C

- 1) a) They had a few of the games at their house.
- 2) b) The van isn't working properly.
- 3) a) The ocean liner is fast and comfortable for passengers.
- 4) b) The vines are much higher than last year.