

Unit 1 New Year

January 1st

Warm-up

Fill the spaces.

Looking forward, looking back

Background

January takes its name from the Roman god Janus who has two faces, one looking forward, and one looking back, which is symbolic of our thoughts each New Year.



But the original Roman calendar had no January nor February. It had 10 months and covered 304 days (the winter period had no months), and March was considered the first month of the year. Later the winter months of January and February were added and, in 153 BC, January became the first month of the year. The modern western calendar still has this same basic form today.

Now January 1st is a national holiday in many countries, so many people can enjoy New Year's Eve celebrations and parties that continue past midnight into the New Year. But not every culture follows the western calendar.

For example, the Chinese calendar follows the lunar cycle, and New Year occurs sometime between January 21st and February 21st; the traditional New Year in Thailand is in the middle of April; and New Zealand Maoris celebrate New Year in May or June.

Nevertheless January 1st is celebrated around the world, and one of the world's biggest and brightest street parties takes place in Times Square, New York.

A go to page 34

B go to page 67

Puzzle

- (A) P R E M I E
- (B) N O S T A I N
- (C) D R A N G
- (D) T H I F F
- (E) S N A K E Y E
- (F) B R I T E L Y
- (G) C L A R E N T
- (H) L A W L
- (I) L O N K Y R O B

New York puzzle

Fill the spaces in the grid with New York landmarks, and find New York's nickname. (Use the anagrams on the left to help)



The center of New York city is

			(A) 7				5	2			7	State Building
			United					2				(B)
		(C) 3			4							Central Terminal station
		(D) 2										Avenue
			New York							7	7	(E)
Statue of	6	2	1	7						(F)		
		(G)		7					4	6		Park
			(H)				6	6				Street
(I)	1						6					Bridge



New York is often called the

1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7
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Writing

&

Discussion

Write about last New Year, what you did, and how you felt. Discuss in a small group.

New York city, in New York state, celebrates New Year as about a million people of all nationalities squeeze into Times Square.

Times Square, on 7th Avenue in Manhattan, is in the heart of New York city, and crowds start gathering early on New Year's Eve. At one minute before midnight the ball drop begins and a giant crystal ball slowly drops down a pole reaching the base at exactly midnight, when thousands of fireworks fly into the air, lighting up the cold New York sky.

There is no alcohol allowed and, even though the average temperature at midnight on New Year is only 1°C, everyone enjoys the thrill of experiencing New Year with so many people from all around the world. But it is not always so cold; the warmest New Year was in 1972 when it was 14°C at midnight, the same as a New York spring day!

However New Year begins at different times in different places. New Year in Hawaii starts 5 hours later than New York, so when it is time for the ball drop in Times Square, the people in Hawaii are just starting to prepare for their New Year barbecue on the beach.

Step 1 Read the text.
Put as much information as you can into the sentences below.

- a) Times Square is in Manhattan on _____ and _____ .
- b) Just before midnight at New Year there is a _____ and _____ .
- c) At midnight there are _____ and _____ .
- d) There are no _____ and no _____ is allowed.
- e) The coldest New Year in New York was in _____ ,
and the temperature was _____ .
- f) At midnight in New York it is ____ am/pm in Japan.



Step 2 Ask B for the other information.

New York city, in New York state, celebrates New Year as about a million people of all nationalities squeeze into Times Square.

Times Square, on Broadway in Manhattan, is in the heart of New York city, and crowds start gathering early on New Year's Eve. At one minute before midnight the countdown begins and everyone counts down from 60, finishing with zero at exactly midnight, when everyone cheers wildly.

There are no toilets and, even though the average temperature at midnight on New Year is only 1°C, everyone enjoys the thrill of experiencing New Year with so many people from all around the world. But it is sometimes much colder; the coldest New Year in New York was in 1917 when it was -17°C at midnight!

However New Year begins at different times in different places. New Year in Japan starts 14 hours before New York, so when people in Times Square are having their countdown it is already past lunchtime on New Year's Day in Japan, and the excitement of the New Year is almost over.

Step 1 Read the text.
Put as much information as you can into the sentences below.

- a) Times Square is in Manhattan on _____ and _____ .
- b) Just before midnight at New Year there is a _____ and _____ .
- c) At midnight there are _____ and _____ .
- d) There are no _____ and no _____ is allowed.
- e) The warmest New Year in New York was in _____ ,
and the temperature was _____ .
- f) At midnight in New York it is ___ am/pm in Hawaii.

Step 2 Ask A for the other information.

