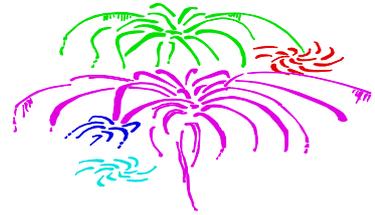


# Unit 9

## Festivals and Celebrations

In this unit you will:

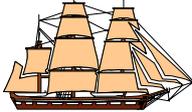


- Discuss the topic of Festivals and Celebrations.
- Practise distinguishing between the sounds /e/ (as in pen) and /ei/ as in (pain)
- Learn about changes in word stress patterns
- Analyse the link between spoken and written English  
ie. ways of spelling the sounds /e/ and /ei/

### 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/?

spe <u>cial</u>	eve <u>n</u> ts	a <u>n</u> cient	he <u>l</u> d	ha <u>i</u> led	ce <u>n</u> try	indep <u>e</u> ndence	da <u>y</u> s
ra <u>c</u> es	gr <u>e</u> at	pl <u>a</u> ce	se <u>n</u> t	sa <u>i</u> nt	ce <u>l</u> ebrate	celebr <u>a</u> tion	

◀◀ **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>pen</u>	2) Sound /ei/ as in the word <u>pain</u>
<i>spe<u>cial</u></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.

words with one syllable	words with two syllables	words with three syllables	words with four syllables

**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. celebrate
↓  
celebration

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