

Happy New Year!

When Is New Year?

In the UK, we celebrate the beginning of New Year from midnight on 31st December to 1st January. People like to celebrate the coming of the new year in different ways.

New Year Traditions

For some people, New Year signifies a time to reflect on what they have achieved in the last year. It may also be a time to reflect on things that they would like to improve over the coming year. For others, New Year is a time for celebration and to think about new beginnings. People often make New Year's resolutions which are linked to things they want to achieve or change over the next 12 months.



New Year around the UK

New Year is often celebrated in England by gathering family and friends together, singing and watching fireworks. In London, fireworks light up the night sky on the Embankment where thousands of people go to welcome in the new year.

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In Scotland, the stroke of midnight is symbolised with the firing of a cannon at Edinburgh Castle. New Year is called Hogmanay in Scotland and people celebrate by exchanging gifts and spending time with their loved ones.

In Wales, New Year is known as Calennig, which means 'first day of the month'. In the Welsh capital, Cardiff, celebrations are held at the Cardiff Civic Centre which include live music, fireworks, ice skating and fairground rides. It is customary to give gifts of bread and cheese in Wales at New Year.

New Year's Eve in Ireland is celebrated by gathering family and friends together and enjoying small parties in their homes. Some of the larger cities, such as Belfast and Dublin, hold special New Year's events for people to enjoy.



Happy New Year Questions

1. Name two things that people may reflect on at New Year.

2. What is a New Year's resolution?

3. Where can you see the fireworks in London?

4. What is New Year called in Scotland?

5. Where is the cannon fired from at midnight?

6. What is the meaning of 'Calennig'?

7. Name two activities you could do at the Cardiff Civic Centre at New Year.

8. Which gifts are given in Wales at New Year?

9. How do your family celebrate New Year?

10. Write down one of your New Year's resolutions for this year.
