

Topic: Traditions & Habits

Let's get started...

Have you participated in any traditional events lately? (For example: a wedding, a bar mitzvah, a New Years celebration) What did you do? Do you do it every year?

Background:

Traditions are an important part of our everyday life. Every culture, religion, and family has unique and different traditions. Traditions include beliefs, activities, and common practices. A common American tradition is to send birth announcements when a baby is born. A common Christian tradition is to go to church every Sunday. An example of a family tradition is if a family goes to the same restaurant for a child's birthday.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Think about your favorite tradition from your native country.

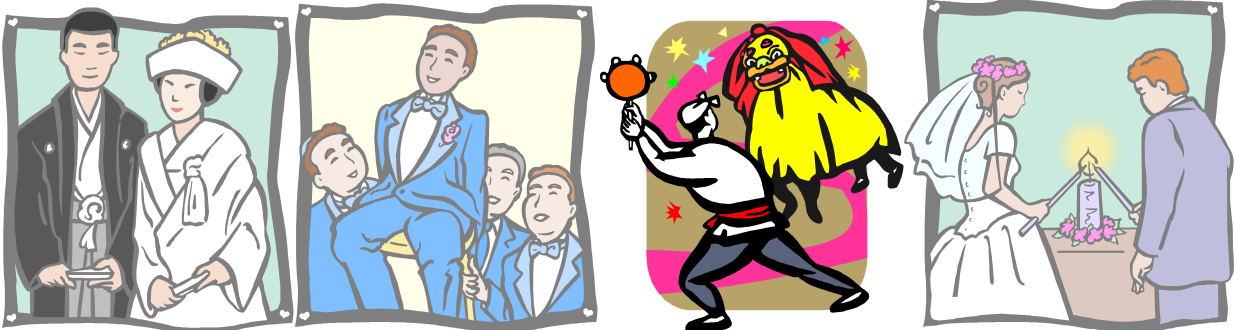
What is your favorite tradition from your native country?

Do you celebrate this tradition in America?

What do you do during this tradition?

Does your family celebrate this tradition?

Are there any special foods associated with this tradition?



Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

What are some traditions from your family? How long has your family been practicing these traditions?

Talk about different traditions from your country: dating traditions, wedding traditions, birth traditions, religious traditions, holiday traditions, and family traditions.

Are traditions an important part of your native culture?

What are some important traditions from your native country?

What are some important traditions from America?

What are some common religious traditions?

How are traditions passed from generation to generation?

Traditionally, who is the head of the household in your native country?

What are traditional foods and clothing from your native country?

What is a traditional story from your native country?

Have you watched any movies about traditions from another culture? What did you think?

Are there any cultural traditions you would like to learn more about?

Do you like to participate in events from different cultures?

Do traditions change over time? Why? How?

How are new traditions started? Is it difficult to start a new tradition?

Are there any traditions you don't like? Why?

Do you have any family heirlooms? How long have they been in your family?

What's your favorite family story? How many times have you heard this story?

In your native country, what traditionally happens when you visit someone's house?

In your native country, what traditionally happens when you start a new job?

In your native country, what traditionally happens during a funeral service?

In your native country, do children observe traditions?

New words and Idioms:

Tradition, customs, generation, passed on, heirloom, ancient, ancestor, elder, respect, honor, observe, funeral