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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/03/13

Easter traditions

Today let's talk about Easter traditions. Every country and region has its own. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

Most people associate Easter with Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter Egg hunts. Easter though is about Christ. Many Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Christ. For this reason they go to church over this period.

Easter traditions do vary depending on where you live and what religion you have. A favourite Easter game is egg tossing or egg throwing. Why? Because the egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in Pagan celebrations of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the rebirth of man at Easter. The idea being to toss an egg so it falls on the ground without breaking. The secret is to play it on grassy meadows. There are many egg games where eggs are thrown to each other. When the music stops or egg breaks... There is also the egg rolling game.

In some countries in Central Europe the girls paint an actual egg. On Easter Monday in Slovakia they give them to a boy after he has soaked her with water or believe it or not, whipped her with a whip made from willow! It is all to do with fertility! In Poland and Ukraine eggs are often painted in silver and gold.

There is the traditional Easter Egg Hunt, which can be played by kids in the garden, home or these days even in Stately homes. There is also the Easter Bunny! Years ago, before emails, people used to send each other Easter cards.

Pussy willow (male catkins before they come into full flower) is used by many religions on Palm Sunday for decoration in churches.

SPEAKING

Think of three Easter traditions. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the counties.
- 2) What is a Pussy willow?
- 3) Name the colours.
- 4) What is a whip?
- 5) What is the whip used on?

Student B questions

- 1) What is Easter about?
- 2) In which country are girls soaked with water?
- 3) Who goes to church over Easter?
- 4) Easter is associated with what?
- 5) What is the secret and of what?

Category: Easter / Easter Traditions / Religion
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Easter**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Easter traditions - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down three Easter traditions from another country that are different from your own! Discuss together. Use the internet to help you!

The teacher will choose some students to read out and discuss their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you like about Easter?
- 3) What Easter traditions do you do?
- 4) Is Easter too commercial these days?
- 5) Do you go to church at Easter? Explain!
- 6) What is your favourite Easter tradition?
- 7) Have you ever painted an egg?
- 8) Do people toss eggs to each other at Easter in your country?
- 9) Have you ever met an Easter bunny?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* studio. Today's interview is: *Easter traditions*.

- 1) A tourist in your country
- 2) A local
- 3) A church leader
- 4) Someone who takes part in a local Easter tradition

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a pub in your town/city. Start a conversation about: '*What I did at Easter!*' 5 mins.

SPEAKING

Pairs/Groups – Easter – Is it too commercial? Has Christ been replaced by chocolate eggs? 5 mins. *The teacher* will choose some groups to hear their discussions in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Easter traditions – past, present and in the future

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever played 'pass the egg' and when the music stops you are out?
- 3) Have you ever decorated your home or church at Easter?
- 4) What is your favourite part of Easter?
- 5) How have Easter traditions changed in your country or have they not?
- 6) Do you send Easter cards?
- 7) Have you ever tossed an egg?
- 8) Do you wear traditional clothes at Easter?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Easter traditions

Today let's talk about Easter (1)__. Every country and region has its own. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

Most people associate Easter with Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter Egg hunts. Easter though is about Christ. Many (2)__ celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of (3)__. For this reason they go to (4)__ over this period.

Easter traditions do (5)__ depending on where you live and what religion you have. A favourite Easter game is egg tossing or egg throwing. Why? Because the egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in (6)__ celebrations of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the rebirth of man at Easter. The idea being to toss an egg so it falls on the ground without breaking. The (7)__ is to play it on grassy (8)__.

meadows / Pagan / Christians / traditions / Christ / vary / secret / church

There are many egg games where eggs are thrown to each other. When the music stops or egg breaks... There is also the (1)__ rolling game.

In some countries in Central Europe the girls paint an (2)__ egg. On Easter Monday in Slovakia they give them to a boy after he has soaked her with water or believe it or not, whipped her with a (3)__ made from willow! It is all to do with (4)__. In Poland and Ukraine eggs are often painted in silver and gold.

There is the (5)__ Easter Egg Hunt, which can be played by kids in the garden, home or these days even in Stately homes. There is also the Easter Bunny! Years ago, before emails, people used to send each other Easter cards.

Pussy (6)__ (male (7)__ before they come into full flower) is used by many religions on Palm Sunday for (8)__ in churches.

fertility / egg / willow / whip / catkins / actual / decoration / traditional

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Easter traditions

Today let's talk about Easter traditions. (1)__ country and region has its own. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

(2)__ people associate Easter with Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter Egg hunts. Easter (3)__ is about Christ. (4)__ Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Christ. For (5)__ reason they go to church over this period.

Easter traditions do vary depending on (6)__ you live and (7)__ religion you have. A favourite Easter game is egg tossing or egg throwing. Why? (8)__ the egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in Pagan celebrations of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the rebirth of man at Easter. The idea being to toss an egg so it falls on the ground without breaking. The secret is to play it on grassy meadows.

most / every / this / because / though / where / many / what

There are many egg games where eggs are thrown to each other. When the music stops or egg breaks... There is also the egg rolling game.

In some countries in Central Europe the girls paint an actual egg. On Easter Monday in Slovakia they give them to a boy after (1)__ has soaked (2)__ with water or believe it (3)__ not, whipped her with a whip made from willow! It is all to do with fertility! In Poland and Ukraine eggs are often painted in silver and gold.

There is the traditional Easter Egg Hunt, which (4)__ be played (5)__ kids in the garden, home or these days even in Stately homes. There is also the Easter Bunny! Years ago, before emails, people used to send each other Easter cards.

Pussy willow (male catkins before they come into full flower) is used by many religions (6)__ Palm Sunday (7)__ decoration (8)__ churches.

in / by / or / he / on / can / her / for

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Easter traditions

Today let's talk about _____. Every country and region has its own. In this lesson we will look at a few of them.

Most people associate Easter with Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and Easter Egg hunts. Easter though is about Christ. Many Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the _____. For this reason they go to church over this period.

Easter traditions do vary depending on where you live and _____. A favourite Easter game is egg tossing or egg throwing. Why? Because the egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in _____ of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the rebirth of man at Easter. The idea being to toss an egg so it falls on the ground without breaking. The secret is to play _____.

There are many egg games where eggs are thrown to each other. _____ or egg breaks... There is also the egg rolling game.

In some countries in Central Europe the girls paint an actual egg. On Easter Monday in Slovakia they give them to a boy after he has soaked her with water _____, whipped her with a whip made from willow! It is all to do with fertility! In Poland and Ukraine eggs are often painted in silver and gold.

There is the traditional _____, which can be played by kids in the garden, home or these days even in Stately homes. There is also the Easter Bunny! Years ago, before emails, people used to send _____.

Pussy willow (male catkins before they come into full flower) is used by many religions on Palm Sunday for _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/small groups* – list five *Easter traditions*. Talk about each of them. *5 mins.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Easter _____
- 2) Easter traditions _____
- 3) At Easter I like _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Easter traditions**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) traditions
- 2) Christians
- 3) Christ
- 4) Church
- 5) Vary
- 6) Pagan
- 7) Secret
- 8) meadows

ANSWERS

- 1) egg
- 2) actual
- 3) whip
- 4) fertility
- 5) traditional
- 6) willow
- 7) catkins
- 8) decoration

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) bunnies
- 2) traditions
- 3) commemorat
e
- 4) associate
- 5) though
- 6) resurrection
- 7) favourite
- 8) egg
- 9) meadows
- 10) symbol

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) early
- 12) actual
- 13) Ukraine
- 14) often
- 15) whip
- 16) willow
- 17) fertility
- 18) traditional
- 19) catkins
- 20) decoration

Easter traditions – 30th March 2013