



Celebrating the New Year

The New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years.

Every culture has its own New Year festival. Here are some New Year festivals from the past and also some New Year festivals that are celebrated in Britain by people from different cultures.

Choose the correct word in each sentence. Find the words in the wordsearch.

The letters left over spell a message for you.

Ancient festivals

Ancient Egyptian New Year

The Ancient Egyptian New Year was (1) **celebrated/happened** in September. There was a big procession along the River Nile. The procession was (2) **led/gone** by the Pharaoh. Trumpets, drums and tambourines were (3) **listened/played**.



Roman New Year

During Roman times a new calendar was (4) **arrived/invented** and the New Year was (5) **run/moved** from March to January. At New Year gifts were (6) **sent/made** to friends and even to the Emperor. Funny costumes were (7) **danced/worn** at parties.



Celtic New Year

The Celtic New Year was in October and was called *Samhain*, which means 'summer's end'. Bonfires were (8) **shone/burned** and people danced around them.



Modern festivals

Jewish New Year

The Jewish New Year is called *Rosh Hashanah* and it is (9) **taken/celebrated** in October. Special services are (10) **held/got** at the synagogue. Honey and fish are (11) **eaten/looked** – honey is for a sweet year and fish is for a year of plenty. Special round loaves of bread are (12) **boiled/baked**. People's houses are (13) **done/cleaned** and new clothes are (14) **bought/given** for children.



Hogmanay

Hogmanay is the Scottish word for New Year's Eve. People go to parties. At midnight an old song called 'Auld Lang Syne' is (15) **sung/seen**. There is also a tradition called 'first footing'. If you are (16) **shouted/visited** by a man with dark hair you will have good luck in the next year.



Muslim New Year

The Muslim New Year is called the *Day of the Hijrah*. It remembers the journey (17) **made/gone** by Muhammad from Mecca to Jerusalem. Children are (18) **played/given** presents and new clothes.



Hindu New Year

Many Hindus celebrate New Year in October, at the same time as *Diwali*, the festival of light. Little lamps called *divas* are (19) **lost/lit** and they are (20) **swum/floated** on lakes and ponds. The story of Rama and Sita is (21) **talked/told** to children.



Chinese New Year

There is a big Chinese New Year festival in London every January or February. Dragon and lion dances are (22) **performed/laughed**. Evil spirits are (23) **frightened/haunted** away with firecrackers. Red clothes are (24) **put/worn** for good luck.

