

New Year's Eve: practice test

Name _____ Date _____



New Year's Superstitions

Kissing at the stroke of midnight:

It's said if one fails to kiss their special someone on the stroke of midnight the relationship will become cold for the rest of the year.

The first person who enters your home will be influential all year.

This superstition supposes that the first person who enters your home after the stroke of midnight will play an influential role in the year to come. Other related superstitions include

1. It's said that blond, red-headed, cross-eyed, flat-footed, or uni-brow visitors will bring bad luck and that tall, dark haired guests carry good luck.
2. This first guest should also knock whether they live in the home or not.

Open all the doors.

It's said that having any doors closed at midnight on New Year's will prevent the old year from leaving.

Nothing must leave the home on New Year's Eve.

This New Year's superstition suggests that nothing should ever leave the house on New Year's Day. Don't take out the bins, pay the bills, do the laundry, lend objects or money, etc. It is believed that doing so will show good fortune the way out. It is, however, bad luck to begin the year with debt, so all debt should be paid prior to New Years Eve.

Stock up and spoil yourself.

One New Year's superstition states that having empty cupboards or a general lack of food will guarantee this state will reoccur all year. Another claims that wearing newly purchased items on New Year's Eve will bring more new things throughout the year. Both these New Year's superstitions warrant a shopping trip.

Be as loud as possible.

Being loud at the stroke of midnight isn't just to celebrate. It's also part of a New Year's superstition that states that noise wards off the evil spirits that follow the New Year in.

Babies born on New Year's will have good luck for life.

It's thought the closer a baby is born to midnight on New Year's night, the more luck it absorbs from the New Year before it has time to age.

Adapted from: <http://www.mahalo.com/new-years-superstitions/>

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General reading questions

1. The text gives the reader:

- a) information
- b) advice
- c) instructions
- d) directions

2. The text is best described as:

- a) a letter
- b) a formal report
- c) an email
- d) an article

3. What is the text about?

4. List some layout / formatting features that are used to make the text look attractive and easy to read.

- a)
- b)
- c)

Detailed reading questions

5. Give two reasons why it is a good idea to go shopping on New Year's Eve.

- a)
- b)

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6. What will happen if you don't kiss your special someone on the stroke of midnight?

7. What should the first person to enter your house in the New Year look like?

8. What will happen if you leave a door closed at midnight on New Year's Eve?

9. What should you not take out of the house on New Year's Day?

Name three things.

10. Why should you be loud at midnight on New Year's Eve?

11. If a baby is born on New Year's Eve, how long will their luck last?

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Alphabetical order

There are many festivals throughout the year. Put these in alphabetical order:

Diwali

Halloween

Eid

Hanukkah

Easter

Hogmanay

Christmas

May Day

Bonfire Night

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Use a dictionary

Look up the meaning of the word *superstition*.

Write the meaning here:

Look up the meaning of the word *influential*.

Write the meaning here:

Look up the meaning of the word *guarantee*.

Write the meaning here:

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New Year's Eve Party

The Mounts Social Club,
Lorne Road,
Northampton.
01604 123456

Make sure you get your tickets!

Fill in this form in capital letters.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr (please circle as applicable)

Surname: _____

First name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Check your form and correct any mistakes.

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Speaking and listening

Talk with your tutor and other students about what you do at New Year's Eve.

Then ask three people about what they did and make notes below:

1.

2.

3.

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Writing:

Plan a piece of writing about what you do on New Year's Eve.

- When you have planned your work, write a rough draft.
- In your final version, write complete sentences using joining words (conjunctions). For example: and, as, but, or.
- Use capital letters, full stops and question marks where you need to.
- Check your spellings, your verb tenses and your grammar.
- After checking your work for mistakes, write a neat final version.

Plan

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Draft

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Final version

New Year's Eve

Mapping and teaching notes

Written as a practice E3 City & Guilds style literacy task but ideal for Functional English practice / assessment.

Entry 2 and Entry 3 Functional Skills English

Coverage and range statements provide indications of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards. ✓ indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher. **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2*. <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

Speaking, listening and communication

Entry Level 2 skill standard: Participate in discussions / exchanges about familiar topics, making active contributions, with one or more people in familiar situations

- a) Identify the main points of short explanations and instructions
- b) Make appropriate contributions that are clearly understood ✓
- c) Express, simply, feelings or opinions and understand those expressed by others ✓
- d) Communicate information so that the meaning is clear ✓
- e) Ask and respond to straightforward questions ✓
- f) Follow the gist of discussions ✓

Entry Level 3 skill standard: Respond appropriately to others and make some extended contributions in familiar formal and informal discussions and exchanges

- a) Follow the main points of discussions ✓
- b) Use techniques to clarify and confirm understanding
- c) Give own point of view and respond appropriately to others' point of view ✓
- d) Use appropriate language in formal discussions/exchanges
- e) Make relevant contributions, allowing for and responding to others' input ✓

Reading

Entry Level 2 skill standard: Read and understand straightforward texts that explain, inform or recount information

- a) Understand the main events in chronological texts ✓
- b) Read and understand simple instructions and directions
- c) Read and understand high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns ✓
- d) Use knowledge of alphabetical order to locate information ✓

Entry Level 3 skill standard: Read and understand the purpose and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information

- a) Understand the main points of texts ✓
- b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓
- c) Use organisational features to locate information ✓
- d) Read and understand texts in different formats using strategies and techniques appropriate to task ✓

Writing

Entry Level 2 skill standard: Write short texts with some awareness of the intended audience

- a) Use written words and phrases to record and present information ✓
- b) Construct compound sentences using common conjunctions ✓
- c) Punctuate correctly, using upper and lower case, full stops and question marks ✓
- d) Spell correctly all high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns ✓

Entry Level 3 skill standard: Write texts with some adaptation to the intended audience

- a) Plan, draft and organise writing ✓
- b) Sequence writing logically and clearly ✓
- c) Use basic grammar including appropriate verb-tense and subject-verb agreement ✓
- d) Check work for accuracy, including spelling ✓

**Also covers many adult literacy curriculum <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sflcurriculum> elements.