

FESTIVALS ACROSS THE WORLD



'LA TOMATINA': THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TOMATO FIGHT

The event takes place every August in Buñol, Spain. People come from all over the world to **participate** in this huge social **occasion**, which includes music, **parades**, dancing, and **fireworks**. The main event is a tomato fight in which 100 **tons** of over-ripe tomatoes are **thrown** in the streets. Trucks bring the tomatoes into the town, and the fight begins; it ends after exactly one hour. No one is very sure how or why this **festival** started!

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, JAPAN

Cherry **blossom** is the national flower of Japan. And as spring **approaches**, people make special trips to various viewing sites to see the first signs of the cherry trees in flower. The trees are sometimes **lit up** at night. The festival includes all sorts of delicious food, games, rides, **parades**, folk music, religious ceremonies, and a beauty **contest**.



THE RIO CARNIVAL ('CARNAVAL')

One of the most **spectacular entertainments** in the world, Carnival is a **wild** four-day celebration of music, dance, and food and drink, all over Rio. The event **means a lot** to the people from the poorest **neighbourhoods**, who spend months in preparation. It is an opportunity for the whole **community** to go out and **have fun** together. It ends with the Samba Parade, for which the performers **dress up** in the most **striking costumes**.

spotlight festival, carnival, parade

A **festival** is a day or days when people celebrate something, often a religious event. A **carnival** is like a festival with people dancing and playing music in the streets. A **parade** is an organized event in which people move (**parade v**) through the streets, often on special vehicles, wearing **costumes** (special clothes), and playing music.

Glossary

participate (in sth)	• become part of an activity. syn take part in sth.
occasion	• a time when sth happens.
fireworks	• objects that burn or explode in the sky with colours and noise.
ton	• a unit for measuring weight in Britain (one ton = 1,016 kilograms).
throw sth	• use your hand and arm to send an object through the air.
blossom	• a flower or mass of flowers especially on fruit trees in spring.
approach sb/sth	• come nearer to sb/sth.
light sth up	• make sth bright with light. syn illuminate sth.
contest	• a competition to see who is the best (e.g. a beauty contest).
spectacular	• very impressive; large, beautiful, and often with lots of colour.
entertainment	• an activity that people enjoy watching and listening to, e.g. theatre, film, music (the people who entertain you are entertainers).
wild	• exciting and enjoyable.
mean a lot to sb	• be very important to sb.
neighbourhood	• an area of a town and the people who live there.
community	• all the people who live in an area or town.
have fun	• enjoy yourself.
dress up	• put on special clothes either for fun or for a formal event.
striking	• very attractive in a way that causes people to notice.

1 Find one spelling mistake in each sentence. Write the correct word at the end.

- The event is really designed to serve the local community. community
- 1 It was really amazing to see the trees illuminated at night. _____
- 2 Carnival takes place once a year, usually during the holiday season. _____
- 3 As we aproached the centre, we saw that the entertainment had started. _____
- 4 It was a really espectacular evening, which we will never forget. _____
- 5 The fastival takes place every three years. _____
- 6 The display of fireworks was absolutely amazing. _____
- 7 They picked tuns of grapes. _____
- 8 Spring is the time when people make special trips to see the trees in blossom. _____

2 Match 1–8 with a–i.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ► The trees are covered in <u>e</u> | a contest. |
| 1 Fireworks _____ | b flowers at the entertainers. |
| 2 The crowd threw _____ | c lit up the night sky. |
| 3 The festival means _____ | d fun together. |
| 4 Everyone just wants to have _____ | e blossom. ✓ |
| 5 People dress up in _____ | f take part in the event. |
| 6 Lots of people want to _____ | g occasion. |
| 7 There is even a beauty _____ | h a lot to the community. |
| 8 It was a very wild _____ | i special costumes. |

3 Replace the word or phrase in *italics* with one which has a similar meaning.

- We had a *good time* watching the carnival parade. fun
- 1 How many people *took part* in the event? _____
- 2 We were going to a party so we decided to *put on special clothes* for it. _____
- 3 The church is usually *lit up* at night. _____
- 4 She was wearing a *very attractive and unusual* dress. _____
- 5 It's a great *time* because everyone goes onto the streets. _____
- 6 The festival is an important event in the *local area where I live*. _____

4 Complete the questions.

ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY

- 1 What is the most important f_____ or c_____ in your country? _____
- 2 Do people p_____ through the streets as a part of it? _____
- 3 Do you have other kinds of e_____ during it? _____
- 4 Have you ever t_____ p_____ in a parade? If so, what did you do? _____
- 5 Have you ever d_____ u_____ in a special costume for a festival?
If so, what did you wear? _____
- 6 Are there any special o_____ when you have f_____ at night? _____
- 7 Do these different events m_____ a lot to you personally? _____
- 8 Would you like to p_____ in any of the festivals on page 124?
Which one(s) and why? _____

5 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers to the questions in Exercise 4, or ask another student.