

## Articles

### New Year Celebrations

#### Exercise 11

Choose the correct answer of the available possible options.

1. On the night of 31 December and the morning of 1 January, people in many countries all over the world will celebrate \_\_\_\_ beginning of a new year. How will they celebrate and how did this tradition begin?

A. a/an

B. the

2. There have been celebrations to mark the beginning of a new year for thousands of years. Sometimes these were simply \_\_\_\_ opportunity for people to eat, drink and have fun, but in some places the festivities were connected to the land or astronomical events. For example, in Egypt the beginning of the year coincided with when the River Nile flooded, and this normally happened when the star Sirius rose.

A. a/an

B. the

3. The Persians and Phoenicians started their new year at \_\_\_\_ spring equinox (this is around 20 March when the Sun shines more or less directly on the equator and the length of the night and the day are almost the same).

A. a/an

B. the

4. \_\_\_\_ city of Babylon in ancient Mesopotamia was where the first New Year's celebrations were recorded about 4,000 years ago.

A. a/an

B. the

5. The Babylonians held their celebrations on \_\_\_\_ first new moon after the spring equinox and called this festival Akitu (which comes from the word the Sumerians used for barley).

A. a/an

B. the

6. Barley was cut in Mesopotamia in the spring, and during Akitu there was \_\_\_\_ different ritual on each of the 11 days that the celebration lasted.

A. a/an

B. the

7. Statues of the gods were carried through the streets of \_\_\_\_ city, and in this way the Babylonians believed that their world had been cleaned to prepare for the new year and a new spring.

A. a/an

B. the

8. There are a number of strange and interesting New Year's traditions around the world. In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay and 'first footing' remains \_\_\_\_ popular custom with people visiting friends' and neighbours' houses just after midnight.

A. a/an

B. the

9. \_\_\_\_ first person who visits your house

A. a/an

B. the

10. should bring \_\_\_\_ gift as this will mean good luck.

A. a/an

B. the

11. In Spain, it is the custom to eat 12 grapes as the bells sound for midnight on 31 December. One grape is eaten at each sound of the bell and each grape is supposed to bring good luck for each month of \_\_\_\_ year ahead.

A. a/an

B. the

12. The new year is a perfect time to make \_\_\_\_ change for the better.

A. a/an

B. the

13. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions is more common in \_\_\_\_ western hemisphere but also exists in the eastern hemisphere.

A. a/an

B. the

14. This tradition involves a person making a commitment to change \_\_\_\_ unwanted habit or behaviour or setting a personal objective.

A. a/an

B. the