

## Independent listening task 1: New Year's Eve

**Level:** ISE I

**Focus:** Independent listening task 1

**Aims:** Students practise listening to a factual text and completing a worksheet representing notes from the recording (please note that students do not complete a worksheet in the ISE I Independent listening tasks)

**Objectives:** Students report facts that are partly derived from understanding whole utterances and partly inferred from content words recognised

**Topic:** Special occasions

**Language functions:** Describing past actions in the indefinite and recent past, describing the future – informing and expressing intention, giving opinions, preferences and reasons, and expressing obligation

**Lexis:** Vocabulary related to special occasions

**Materials needed:** Recording of audio script or audio script for teacher to read from, one copy of worksheet per student and copies of audio script for students who may find the task difficult

**Timing:** 45 minutes

### Preparation

1. Pre-record the audio using three different people speaking if possible, and also record the 'examiner rubric' if required. If necessary you can read out the audio script yourself in class at a normal pace.
2. Print or copy one worksheet per student.

### In class

1. Tell the students that they are going to practise listening to a factual text and writing notes like in task 1 of the ISE I listening exam. Tell them the audio is about New Year's Eve.
2. Elicit the date of New Year's Eve and ask a student how they celebrated it last year. Ask questions to elicit more information, such as where they spent it, who with, what they ate, what they wore, and whether they followed any traditions. Write the questions on the board if necessary.
3. In pairs, tell the students to ask each other about their last New Year's Eve. Encourage them to talk for five minutes.
4. Tell the students they are going to hear about New Year's traditions in three different countries. Ask the students the first time they listen to write down the three countries. Play the recording or read the audio script. Repeat if necessary and then elicit the answers in open-class. Write the answers on the board.
5. Give out a worksheet to each student. Ask the students, in pairs, to try to complete as much of the worksheet as possible from memory. If they don't know an answer, encourage them to make a logical guess.
6. Play the recording again and students complete the worksheet. Ask the students to compare their answers with their partner's.
7. Go through the answers as a class, repeating any parts of the audio that were problematic.
8. Write the following discussion questions on the board:
  - ▶ Which of the three countries would you rather spend New Year's Eve in? Why?
  - ▶ Which of the traditions do you like the most/least? Why?
  - ▶ Do you know any New Year's traditions from any other countries?
9. Put students into small groups and encourage them to talk for 10 minutes answering the discussion questions on the board. While students are speaking, write up errors on the board. Once the students have completed the task, briefly elicit some answers, comment on their progress and then address the errors.

## Preparation activities for ISE I Speaking & Listening

### Extension activity

Students who are able to complete the worksheet after listening just once can be asked to write down as many extra details as possible during the second listening.

### Further support activity

Students who struggle during the first listening can be provided with the audio script during the second listening.

### After class

Ask the students to research other countries' New Year traditions on the internet. Tell the students to prepare three interesting facts about the country of their choice, which they can then share with the class in the next lesson.

### Examiner rubric:

You're going to hear three people talk about how New Year is celebrated in their countries. As you listen, complete the notes on this worksheet. Write one or two words in each space. The recording is about one minute. You'll hear the recording twice. Now you have 15 seconds to read the worksheet. (Wait 15 seconds) Are you ready?

### Audio script

#### Hanna from Denmark

In Denmark we usually spend New Year's Eve with friends. A typical dish at New Year is boiled fish. One tradition is to throw plates at our friends' doors. If you have a lot of broken plates outside your door it shows you are very popular. Another tradition is to jump off chairs at midnight.

#### Jack from the Philippines

In the Philippines, we believe that round objects bring good luck. That is why people eat a lot of round fruit on New Year's Eve, such as grapes and oranges. Some people wear clothes covered in circles. We also throw coins at New Year to increase wealth and prosperity.

#### Gustavo from Mexico

On New Year's Eve in Mexico, we usually have dinner at home with the family. We eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight on the 31st. As we eat each grape, we make a wish for the New Year. Some people believe that if you carry a suitcase around the block, you will do a lot of traveling the following year.

## Student worksheet: New Year's Eve

While listening, fill in the gaps.

<b>Speaker 1 – Hanna</b>	
Country	Denmark
Food	Boiled 1)
Traditions	Throw 2) at friends' doors
	3) chairs
<b>Speaker 2 – Jack</b>	
Country	The Philippines
Food	Round fruits, such as grapes and 4)
Traditions	Wear clothes covered in 5)
	Throw coins
<b>Speaker 3 – Gustavo</b>	
Country	Mexico
Food	6) grapes
Traditions	Carry 7) around the block

## Answers: New Year's Eve

<b>Speaker 1 – Hanna</b>	
Country	Denmark
Food	Boiled 1) <i>fish</i>
Traditions	Throw 2) <i>plates</i> at friends' doors
	3) <i>Jump off</i> chairs
<b>Speaker 2 – Jack</b>	
Country	The Philippines
Food	Round fruits, such as grapes and 4) <i>oranges</i>
Traditions	Wear clothes covered in 5) <i>circles</i>
	Throw coins
<b>Speaker 3 – Gustavo</b>	
Country	Mexico
Food	6) <i>12</i> grapes
Traditions	Carry 7) <i>suitcase</i> around the block