



New Year's Eve is December 31. It is a noisy and happy time. People blow horns and ring bells on New Year's Eve.

THE NEW YEAR

1. When does a new year begin?

2. The calendar that we use is the Gregorian calendar. Our new year begins January first.

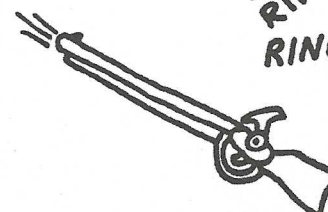
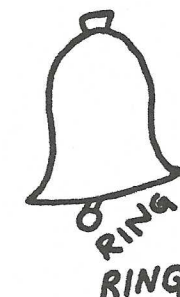
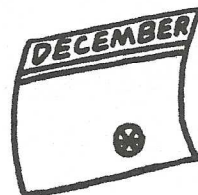
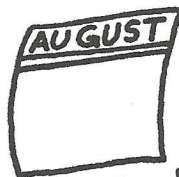
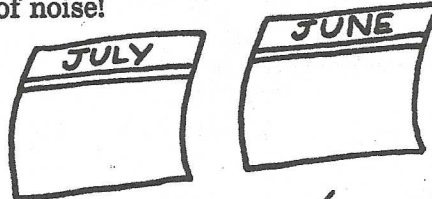
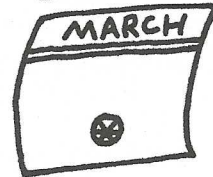
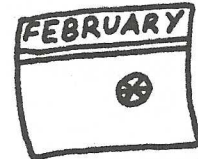
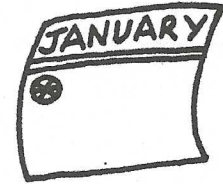
3. In ancient Egypt, the new year began when the Nile River flooded over its banks. In northern Europe, the new year began when the leaves fell off the trees.

4. In other parts of Europe, the new year began on the shortest day of the year (the winter solstice). In ancient Rome the new year was the first day of spring. This was the day when night and day were equal.

5. The Jewish New Year begins in September, at harvest time. The Chinese New Year begins in January or February.

6. A long time ago, many people thought that the spirits of dead people could come back on the last night of the year. People made loud noises on New Year's Eve to scare away bad spirits. They beat drums, rang bells, and exploded firecrackers or guns. In ancient Rome there was a whole week of wild behavior and drinking before the new year.

7. New Year's Eve is a holiday filled with fun. People are not afraid of spirits of dead people, but they still make a lot of noise!



THE NEW YEAR: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| begin/began | fall/fell | noises |
| calendar | winter solstice | scare |
| ancient | Rome | beat drums |
| Egypt | equal | explode/exploded |
| river | harvest | firecrackers |
| flood | think/thought | guns |
| bank | spirits | wild |
| northern | dead | behavior |
| Europe | loud | |

II. 1. When is New Year's Day in your country?

2. How do people celebrate New Year's Eve?

3. How do they celebrate New Year's Day?

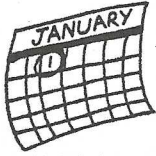
4. Does your family do something special on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day? _____

Do you eat special foods? _____

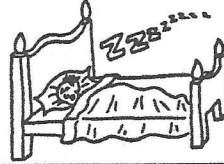
Do you make resolutions? _____

NEW YEAR'S DAY

1. New Year's Day is January first.



2. Some people rest.



3. Other people have a big dinner.



4. It is a good day to visit friends.



5. There is a big football game on New Year's Day.



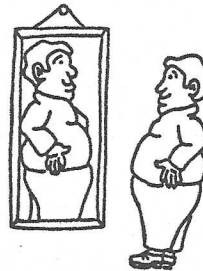
6. Many people have a party to watch the football game on TV.



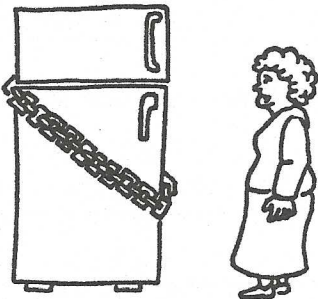
7. In Pasadena, California there is a Parade of Roses.



8. The beginning of the new year is a good time to make changes.



9. People make New Year's resolutions. They promise to change their bad habits.



10. Here are some examples of New Year's resolutions:

- a. I will do my homework every night.
- b. I will not eat junk food.
- c. I will watch less TV.
- d. I will help other people more.
- e. I will keep my room clean.
- f. I will be kind to my little brother.
- g. I will save money.
- h. I will stop _____

NEW YEAR'S DAY: EXERCISES

I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

new	rose	homework
year	beginning	less
January	time	junk food
rest	make/made changes	help
visit	resolutions	room
friend	promise	clean
football	change	save
game	bad habit	money
parade	example	stop

II. Discussion:

1. How will you (How did you) spend New Year's Day?

2. How do people spend New Year's Day in your country?

3. Is it a good idea to make New Year's resolutions? _____

4. It is easy to make resolutions, but it is not always easy to keep them. How can a person be sure to keep a resolution?

5. What resolutions will you make?

