



### BEFORE YOU READ

Talk about this photograph. Guess the answers to the questions below. Write your guesses on the lines.

1. What are these people doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why are some people wearing hats? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What time is it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Now turn the  
page and read.

# New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

It is 11:59 P.M. on December 31. In just a minute, New Year's Day begins with a bang! Horns and noisemakers blow. People drink champagne. People kiss and hug each other. They say, "Happy New Year!" Everyone says good-bye to the old year and hello to the new one.

New Year's Eve is December 31. It is not a national holiday, so people often go to work on this day. But in the evening, many people go to parties. They stay up late and wait for the new year. They eat, drink, and dance. The people in the picture are at a New Year's Eve party. Some parties are at home. Other parties are at restaurants. In New York City, thousands of people wait outside in Times Square on New Year's Eve. They celebrate the new year with a lot of noise.

January 1 is New Year's Day. It is a national holiday, so most people don't have to go to work. Most people have a quiet day with family or friends. Some people have headaches because they drank too much alcohol the night before. Many Americans are concerned about drinking and driving. Drinking and driving is dangerous and illegal. On New Year's Eve, many cities have free buses and taxis so people don't have to drive.

Many Americans watch television on New Year's Day. In the morning, there are parades on TV. After the parades, there are college football games. One popular game is the Rose Bowl game in California. Millions of football fans watch this game.

On January 1, people think about the new year. Many people make resolutions. They decide to make changes in their lives. Some people promise to exercise more. Some decide to stop smoking. Others decide to lose weight. If people don't keep their New Year's resolutions, they can try again next year!

## UNDERSTANDING NEW WORDS

Take turns reading these pairs of sentences with a partner. Is the meaning of the sentences the same or different? Decide with your partner. Circle SAME or DIFFERENT.

1. New Year's Day begins with a **bang**.  
New Year's Day begins with a lot of noise.

SAME DIFFERENT
2. Many Americans are **concerned** about drinking and driving.  
Many Americans are worried about drinking and driving.

SAME DIFFERENT
3. Drinking and driving is dangerous and **illegal**.  
Drinking and driving is dangerous, but it is not against the law.

SAME DIFFERENT
4. Millions of football **fans** watch the Rose Bowl game on New Year's Day.  
Many lovers of football watch the Rose Bowl game on New Year's Day.

SAME DIFFERENT
5. Many people make **resolutions** to exercise more in the new year.  
Many people promise to exercise more in the new year.

SAME DIFFERENT

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

### *When Is the Holiday?*

Fill in the year. Then write the dates for December and January. Circle New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

December 19 \_\_\_\_

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

January 19 \_\_\_\_

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.

### ***New Year's Eve or New Year's Day?***

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Is each sentence about New Year's Eve or New Year's Day? Decide with your partner. Put an X under NEW YEAR'S EVE or NEW YEAR'S DAY.

	NEW YEAR'S EVE	NEW YEAR'S DAY
1. It is a quiet day.	_____	_____ <b>X</b>
2. It is a national holiday.	_____	_____
3. People go to parties.	_____	_____
4. There is a lot of noise.	_____	_____
5. Many people watch football games on TV.	_____	_____
6. People make New Year's resolutions.	_____	_____
7. People stay up late.	_____	_____
8. People drink champagne.	_____	_____

### True or False?

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Is each sentence true or false? Decide with your partner. Put an X under TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Many cities have free transportation on New Year's Eve.	<u>    X    </u>	<u>          </u>
2. Drinking on New Year's Eve is illegal.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
3. On January 1, people think about the new year and make resolutions.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
4. If people don't keep their New Year's resolutions, they go to jail.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
5. New Year's Eve is noisier than New Year's Day.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### Understanding Sentences with Because

Take turns reading these sentences with a partner. Decide together how to finish each sentence. Cross out the letter of the answer. Then write the letter on the line.

1. People go to parties and stay up late on December 31     C    
  - a. because they want to make changes in their lives.
2. Most people don't go to work on January 1           
  - b. because they don't want people to drink and drive.
3. Some people have headaches on New Year's Day           
  - ~~X~~ because they are waiting for the new year.
4. Many cities have free buses and taxis on New Year's Eve           
  - d. because they drank too much alcohol the night before.
5. People make New Year's resolutions           
  - e. because it is a national holiday.

## BEFORE YOU CONTINUE

- Look at your guesses on page 1. Were you right?
- Now fill in New Year's Eve and New Year's Day on the Holiday Chart on page 153.



## TALK ABOUT IT

Talk to a partner about last year. Ask these questions and write your partner's answers on the lines. Then share the answers with the class.

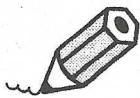
Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Was last year good or bad for you? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was one good thing about last year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was one bad thing about last year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is one thing you want to do in the new year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## WRITE

On New Year's Day, many Americans make resolutions for the new year. Read Pepe's New Year's resolutions.

1. I will stop smoking.
2. I will exercise three times a week.
3. I will lose 10 pounds this year.

Now write three things you want to do in the new year. Then share your resolutions with the class.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## LET'S SING

A poet from Scotland, Robert Burns, wrote this song about 200 years ago. Americans often sing this song at midnight on New Year's Eve. Some of the words are difficult to understand because they are not English. They are Older Scottish. *Auld Lang Syne* means "old days gone by." People say good-bye to the old year when they sing this song.

### Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot  
And days of Auld Lang Syne?

For Auld Lang Syne, my dear,  
For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

For Auld Lang Syne, my dear,  
For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
For Auld Lang Syne.