



UNIT 1

The New Year

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- ▶ When do you celebrate the new year?
- ▶ Do some people celebrate the new year on a different date? Who? When?





Throwing Water

Read the story.

My name is Mrs. Buranen. I teach seventh grade in the United States. Usually my students behave very well—they almost never make trouble. But one April day some of my students were very excited and noisy. In the hall and on the playground, these students threw cups of water at each other. They even threw water at my teacher's aide and me!

I told the students to stop, but they continued their game. My teacher's aide didn't help me. She watched the students and smiled. Finally I got angry. I began to scold the noisy students, but my teacher's aide said, "Wait!?"

Can you guess?

Work in a small group. Answer these questions.

- ▶ The students threw water. Their teacher told them to stop, but they didn't. Why not?
- ▶ Didn't they like their teacher?
- ▶ Can you think of any other explanation?

Let's find out.

Read the explanation.

The date was April 13. The teacher's aide told Mrs. Buranen that it was the Cambodian New Year. The aide knew this because she was from Cambodia. The students who threw the water were Cambodian, too. It is a Cambodian custom to throw water at others on New Year's Day. Cambodians believe that it brings good luck and happiness all year. Sometimes they color the water red, pink, or yellow to show their hopes for a happy future. The students threw water at Mrs. Buranen to wish her good luck for the new year.

Did the explanation surprise you? Why or why not?



COMPREHENSION

A. Read the story and the explanation again. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- ☒ 1. Mrs. Buranen taught in the United States.
- ☐ 2. Cambodians begin the new year on January 1.
- ☐ 3. The Cambodian New Year is a serious and quiet time.
- ☐ 4. The students wanted to make trouble.
- ☐ 5. The teacher's aide was Cambodian.
- ☐ 6. The students wished to give Mrs. Buranen good luck.

B. Answer these questions in a small group.

- 1. Who did the students throw water at?
- 2. Why was Mrs. Buranen angry?
- 3. Why wasn't the teacher's aide angry?
- 4. Who understood the students?



VOCABULARY

What do these words mean? Circle *a* or *b*. Look back at the story and the explanation if you need to.

- 1. behave well =
 - a. be noisy and throw water
 - ☒ b. be quiet and listen to the teacher
- 2. make trouble =
 - a. behave well
 - b. behave badly
- 3. a teacher's aide =
 - a. a person who helps a teacher
 - b. a teacher's book
- 4. finally =
 - a. after everything
 - b. before everything



5. scold =
- be angry at
 - speak at in an angry way
6. good luck =
- when good things happen
 - a lot of colored water
7. a custom =
- something you do any way you want
 - something you do the special way your culture does it



RETELL THE STORY

- A. Work with a partner. Student A, retell Mrs. Buranen's story. Student B, retell the explanation.**
- B. What do you think? Share your opinion with your partner.**

- Mrs. Buranen scolded the students. How did the students feel?
- Mrs. Buranen's aide explained the custom to Mrs. Buranen. How did Mrs. Buranen feel?
- The students threw water at their teacher. Were the students sorry?
- In the future, will the students throw water at their teachers?



DICTIONARY DISCOVERIES

A dictionary is a book about words. You can find the meaning of a word, how to spell the word, and how to say it. The words in a dictionary are in ABC order. This is *called alphabetical order*.

The English Alphabet

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj
Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt
Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz				

A. Put these words in alphabetical order.

behave aide scold celebrate trouble finally luck

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. <u>aide</u> | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. <u>frouble</u> |
| 4. _____ | |

Put these words in alphabetical order.

seventh student stop scold show

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 8. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 10. _____ | |

B. Choose three words from "Throwing Water." Find them in your dictionary. Write the word that comes before and after each of your words.

Example:

the word before	<u>scissors</u>
your word	<u>scold</u>
the word after	<u>scoop</u>

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |
| 2. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |
| 3. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |



► CULTURE CAPSULE

A. Read about New Year's Eve in the United States.

The year begins on January 1, but most Americans go to parties on New Year's Eve, December 31. At midnight, the new year begins. People make a lot of noise and kiss each other. It is a happy time. Many Americans also like to make New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are promises people make to themselves to do something in the new year.

B. List three American customs you know about. Do you know other things Americans do on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

A. Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

1. Can you say "Happy New Year" in another language?
2. When does your family celebrate the new year?
3. How does your family celebrate? Do you eat special foods? Do you wear special clothing? What other New Year's customs do you have?
4. What do you do to bring good luck in the new year?

B. What do you know about other holidays around the world? Work in a group. Share what you know to complete the chart on page 7.

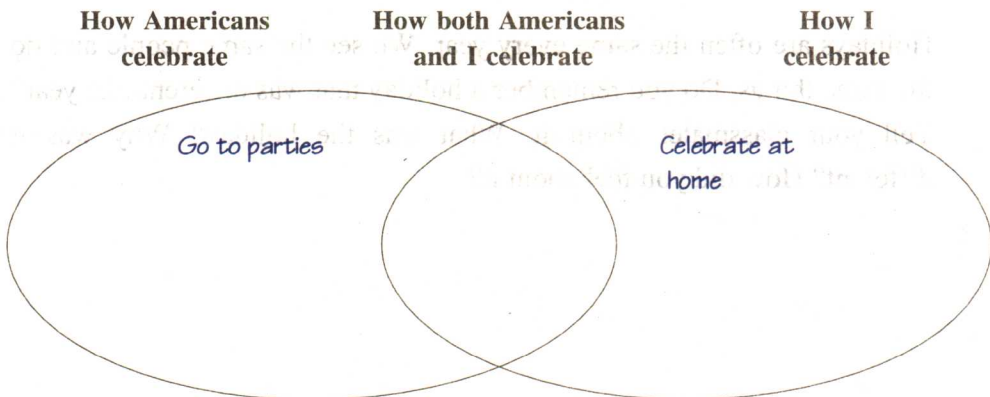
Holiday	Country	Date	Reason or Purpose	Activities
Girl's Day	Japan	March 3	Girls will think about being good and healthy.	Grandparents give their granddaughters special, traditional dolls.



EXPANSION

A. How do most Americans celebrate the new year? How do you celebrate it? Do you do any of the same things?

Fill in the diagram. Then discuss it with a partner.



B. In the United States, many people make New Year's resolutions. Sometimes people promise themselves to lose weight, be kinder to others, study harder, or look for a better job.

Write three resolutions for yourself. Discuss them with a partner.

My New Year's Resolutions

Resolution	Reason
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



OUR OWN STORIES

Holidays are often the same every year. We see the same people and do the same things. Do you remember a holiday that was different one year? Tell your classmates about it. What was the holiday? Why was it different? How did you feel about it?

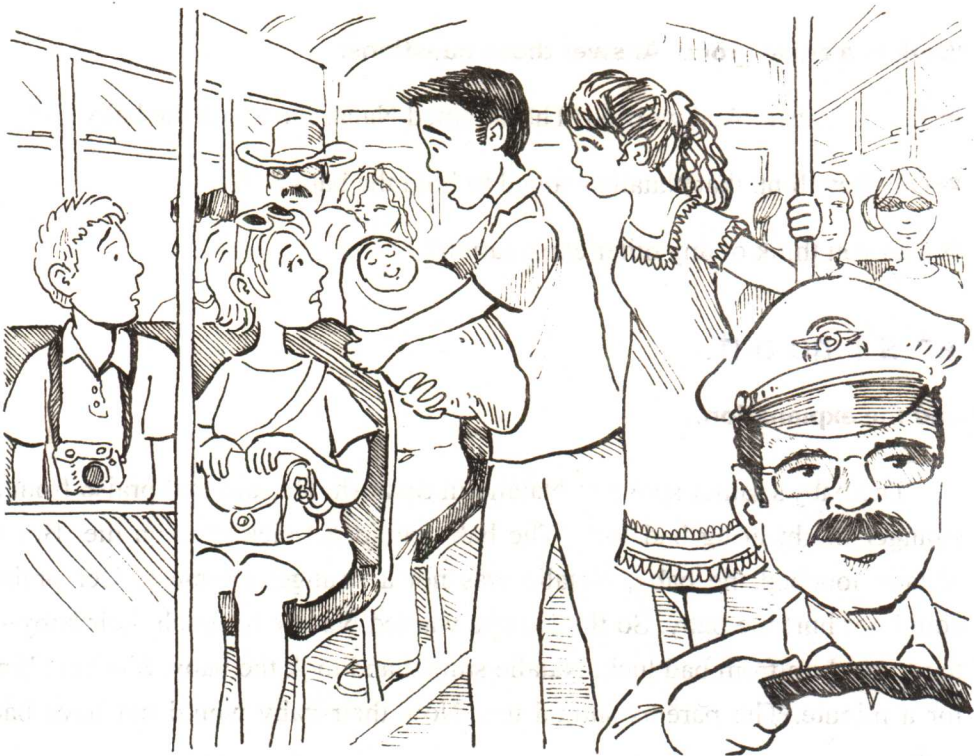


UNIT 2

Luck

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- ▶ Do you have good luck?
- ▶ Can a person keep bad luck away? How?





Protecting the Baby

Read the story.

One summer, I was traveling with my husband, Jon. We were on a crowded bus in Texas. Most of the passengers spoke Spanish. Suddenly, Jon said, "Natalie, look at those people with the beautiful baby." He pointed to a young family. They looked so happy. I smiled at them. Then, in my best Spanish, I said, "*¡Qué chulo!*" ("How charming!") and praised the baby.

Now the parents did not look happy. They looked worried. They got up from their seats and came toward us. When they were close, the father held out the baby to me. He asked me to touch the baby.

Can you guess?

Work in a small group. Answer these questions.

- ▶ The parents looked worried. They wanted Natalie to touch the baby. Why?
- ▶ Did they think that Natalie wanted to hold the baby?
- ▶ Can you think of any other explanation?

Let's find out.

Read the explanation.

The baby's father spoke to Natalie in Spanish. He said that praise from a stranger might bring bad luck. The baby could get sick or even die. But if Natalie touched the baby, Natalie was not a stranger anymore. Her praise could not hurt the baby. So the parents wanted Natalie to touch their baby—to protect him from bad luck. Natalie smiled and took the baby. She held him for a minute. The parents smiled too. Now their baby would not have bad luck.

Did the explanation surprise you? Why or why not?



COMPREHENSION

A. Read the story and the explanation again. Write the sentences in order.

Jon pointed to the couple and the baby.

The couple left their seats and went to Natalie.

Natalie smiled and said, "*¡Qué chulo!* "

Natalie held the baby.

Natalie and Jon got on the bus.

The father explained about strangers and bad luck.

The father asked Natalie to touch the baby.

Jon saw the couple with the baby.

1. Natalie and Jon got on the bus.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. Natalie held the baby.

B. Answer these questions in a small group.

1. What did the parents believe about praise from strangers?
2. Did Natalie believe the same thing? How do you know?



VOCABULARY

Rewrite the sentences. Use words from the box in place of the underlined words.

touch

pointed to

held the baby

worried

stranger

held out the baby

praised

protect

make bad things happen



1. Natalie said something nice about the baby.

Natalie praised the baby.

2. Natalie was a person who didn't know the baby.

3. The parents were afraid for their baby.

4. Praise from a stranger could bring bad luck to the baby.

5. The father gave the baby to Natalie.

6. Natalie took the baby in her arms.

7. Jon showed Natalie the parents and the baby.

8. Natalie could keep bad luck away from the baby by holding him.

9. Natalie had to put her hands on the baby.



DICTIONARY DISCOVERIES

Dictionaries give the meanings of words. The meanings are called *definitions*. If you want to know a definition, you *look up the word* in your dictionary. Here is the definition of *crowded*:

crowd·ed / 'kraʊdɪd / *adjective*

too full of people: *We had to wait in a crowded room.*



Look up these words in your dictionary. Write the definitions.

1. crowded too full of people
2. passenger _____
3. suddenly _____
4. parent _____
5. father _____



RETELL THE STORY

A. Work with a partner. Student A, retell Natalie's story. Student B, retell the explanation.

B. What do you think? Share your opinion with your partner.

1. The baby's father explained about strangers, praise, and bad luck. How did Natalie feel?
2. Can praise from strangers bring bad luck to babies? Can other things bring bad luck? What things?
3. In the story, did you like the baby's parents?
4. Did you like Natalie and Jon?

► CULTURE CAPSULE

A. Read the information.

In the United States, some people believe that some actions bring bad luck. If you break a mirror, you will have bad luck. If you open an umbrella inside a house or walk under a ladder, you will have bad luck. If you talk about something that you want, you will not get it. If you accidentally talk about something that you want, you should "knock on wood"—you knock your hand on a desk or table or something else made of wood.



People think some things bring good luck. Sometimes people wear clothing that they believe brings good luck. Some people have lucky days or lucky numbers. Sometimes people see a falling star and think good luck is coming.

B. Work in a small group. Discuss these questions.

1. In the United States, what do people believe about good luck and bad luck?
2. What do you believe about good luck and bad luck?



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Work in a group. Write the names of different places you know. What do people believe brings good luck and bad luck? Fill in the chart.

Name of Culture	Brings Good luck	Brings Bad Luck
1. the United States	you see a falling star	you walk under a ladder
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

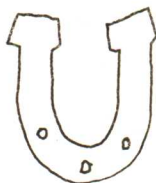


EXPANSION

A. Draw a picture of something that brings good luck or that protects from bad luck. Write this information next to your picture.

1. What do you call it?
2. What do you do with it?
3. Does it bring good luck? Does it protect you? How?

Example:



This is a horseshoe.

You hang it over the door of your house.

It keeps good luck inside the house.

Discuss your picture with your classmates.

B. Take a survey.

1. Work with a group. Choose four things that many people think bring good or bad luck. Write them in column 1. (Everyone in your group should write the same things in column 1.)
2. Talk to five people outside of class. Fill in your chart. Write *yes* or *no*.
3. Work with your group again. Compare your charts. What did you find out?

Things That Bring Good or Bad Luck	Do They Believe It?				
	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					



OUR OWN STORIES

People believe different things about good luck and bad luck. Did anyone ever believe something that surprised you? Tell your classmates about it. Who was the person? What did he or she believe?





UNIT 3

Gestures

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

► Do you ever say yes or no without using words?

How?

► Do you ever use any other gestures, or actions, in place of words? What are the gestures? What do they mean?





Read the story.

My name is Nick. I'm from Canada. In 1998, I was on the island of Pohnpei in the Pacific Ocean. I went to teach at a school there. On my first day on the island, something unusual happened.

It was very hot, and I was thirsty. I went into a small store. I spoke to the woman behind the counter. "Do you have any cold drinks?" I asked.

The woman looked at me, but she didn't say anything. I thought she didn't understand me, so I tried easier words. "Do you have Coke?"

Again, the woman was silent. She didn't answer, so I thought that she didn't have any Coke. I spoke louder and more slowly. "Do you have anything else?"

The woman walked over to a refrigerator. She opened the door and pointed to many different kinds of soda. She didn't say anything, but she removed a Coke and put it on the counter. Speaking slowly and clearly, I asked, "How much does it cost?"

In perfect English, she answered, "Fifty cents."

Can you guess?

Work in a small group. Answer these questions.

- ▶ Nick asked three questions and the woman didn't say anything. Why didn't the woman answer?
- ▶ Nick was a stranger. Is that the reason?
- ▶ Can you think of any other explanation?

