

# Different Types of New Year

Are you looking to celebrate New Year in a different way?

Then why not look at how different countries and cultures celebrate? Many cultures recognise New Year as a festival and have different **customs** and traditions, but all celebrate with equal **enthusiasm**. Revel in some of the interesting ways that New Year is celebrated around the globe – the world is your oyster!



## Dazzling Denmark

Citizens in Denmark keep a pile of broken dishes in front of their front door. They save old dishes throughout the year and then throw them on their friends' front doors during New Year. This **symbolises** friendship and brotherhood. The Danish believe that the one with the most dishes at their door has the most friends.

Parties are also common in Denmark. Special dishes are served consisting of boiled cod, stewed kale and pork. Serving these foods is considered to spread good luck, **prosperity** and happiness. Marzipan ring cake is served at the stroke of midnight to welcome in the New Year.

## Beautiful Britain

The English custom for welcoming the New Year is full of **hospitality** and warmth. British people believe that the first guest for the year would bring fortune for them.

The visitor should be male and should enter through the front door, bearing traditional gifts such as a loaf for the kitchen, a drink for the head of the family and coal to light the fire. British people believe that these items bring good luck throughout the year. On New Year's Eve, just before midnight, many Britons watch television shows which **broadcast** the Clock Tower on the Palace of Westminster, or Houses of Parliament in London, counting down the last few minutes of the year. At midnight, Big Ben chimes loudly to mark the start of the new year.

Many people host parties at home or go out to local events, which continue in to the early hours of the morning. For others, it marks the end of the Christmas holiday period before they return to work.

Many British people make New Year's resolutions. These are personal promises to make their lives better in some way over the future year. Common resolutions include weight loss, eating healthily, getting more exercise or spending less money.

## Did you know.....

In many places around the United Kingdom's coast, groups of people dress up in fancy costume and run into the cold sea!!!

## Brilliant Brazil

New Year in Brazil is largely about customs and traditions. Brazilians believe that lentils **signify** wealth and prosperity. Lentils are used as a main ingredient in dishes served on New Year's Eve.

Ceremonies are performed in Rio de Janeiro, where priestesses dress up in blue and white to celebrate the water goddess. **Sacrificial** boats are filled with jewellery, candles and flowers, and are launched into the ocean to bring wealth, health and happiness.

Brazilians who live near the beach gather and throw flowers onto the sand whilst jumping seven times to invite a happy and prosperous new year ahead.



## Jazzy Japan

New Year is the most important occasions in the Japanese calendar. The event is so important that all offices, factories and shops are closed. The oldest custom is the tradition of 'Otoshidama'. This is where children receive gifts of money in decorated envelopes. The amount of money you receive depends on how old you are!

Japan has a number of customs and traditions which include hanging straw ropes in the front entrance of homes to keep evil spirits away. It is believed that it also brings good fortune. Another custom is to laugh out loud as the New Year starts, again to keep the evil away.

Houses are decorated with green plants and bamboo to welcome new life and honesty. Each house also has a paper lobster on display which **promotes** long life.

Japanese people have a **lavish** dinner party including seaweed, mashed sweet potato, chestnuts and fishcakes. After the meal they go to the temple and ring the temple bells 108 times. They believe the bells will keep away evil forces.



New Year from around the world – where would you want to celebrate?

Now you have read the text, where would you like to spend New Year? (C4)

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Why does the introduction begin with a question? (C7)

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What is broadcast on the television at midnight in Britain? (C6/2b)

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What 3 gifts should a male visitor bring, according to the British tradition? (C6/2b)

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What do the Danish collect throughout the year? (C6/2b)

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What is the purpose of this text? (T4)

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Why does the text include images/pictures? (C7)

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