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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE FESTIVALS?

The background image shows a large crowd of people gathered on a grassy bank at night, looking across a body of water towards a distant shoreline. A large, bright firework is exploding in the dark sky above the water. The water is illuminated by many small lights, possibly from boats or shore-based structures. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

Reading and Thinking
Period 1

杭州第四中学

Lead-in

Watch a video about festivals around the world.

给我来一碗鸡蛋炒饭 bilibili

Festivals & Celebrations

Watch a video about festivals around the world.

1. What festivals can you find in this video?



**Think:
Why do we celebrate
festivals?**

Skimming

Identify the topic sentence of each para.

Basic para-structure

1. Topic sentence (Main idea)

2. Supporting details/ Examples
(Specific information)

Function

Identify the main idea of a paragraph

Identifying the main ideas of paragraphs is necessary when analysing a text. Most paragraphs will have a "topic sentence" that tells you the paragraph's main idea. It is often the first sentence, but sometimes it is found elsewhere in the paragraph.

Position

It may be in the middle of a paragraph or in the end of a paragraph

Skimming Para 1

Tell the topic sentence and its function.

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Festivals are celebrated all around the world. They have a wide range of origins, such as the seasons of the year, religions, famous figures, and important events. Every festival has its different customs and unique charms. However, no matter how different they may seem, all over the world, the spirit of sharing joy, gratitude, love, or peace is common in all festivals.

However as transition to introduce the deeper information. Topic sentence as conclusion.

Which two sentences can help you summarize the main idea?

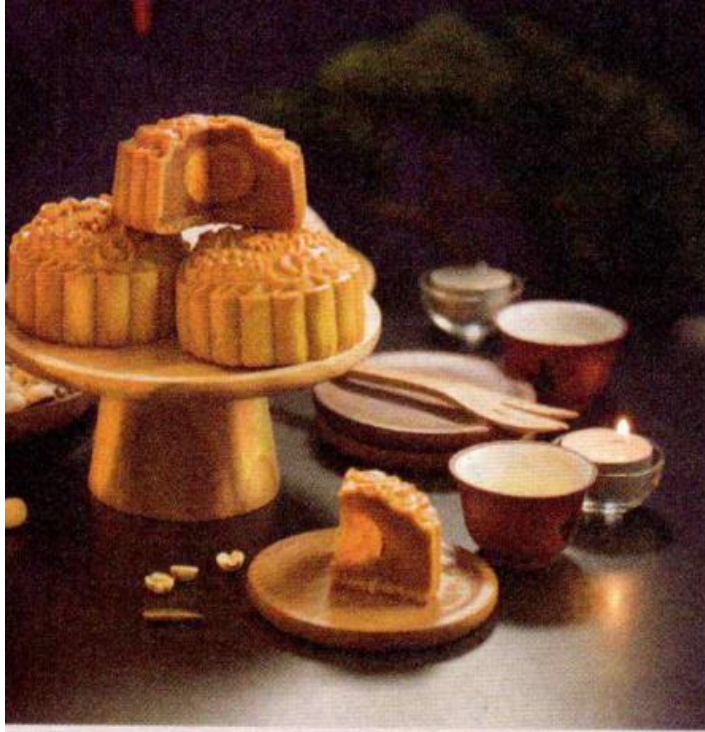
*Festivals are celebrated all around the world. They have a wide range of origins, such as the seasons of the year, religions, famous figures, and important events. Every festival has its **different** customs and unique charms. However, no matter how different they may seem, all over the world, the spirit of sharing joy, gratitude, love, or peace is **common** in all festivals.*

different

common

Skimming Para. 2

Tell the topic sentence and its function.



Of all the traditional festivals, the **harvest** festival can be found in almost every culture. This important agricultural festival takes place after all the **crops** have been **gathered** in. People celebrate to show that they are **grateful** for the year's supply of food. In ancient Egypt, the harvest festival was celebrated during the springtime—the Egyptian harvest season. It **featured** a parade and a great feast with music, dancing, and sports. Today, in some European countries, people **decorate churches** and town

halls with flowers and fruit, and get together to celebrate over a meal. During the Mid-Autumn Festival in China, families gather to admire the shining moon and enjoy delicious mooncakes.

Topic sentence as a general idea to lead in.

Harvest festival-Para. 2

Topic sentence

ational festivals, the harvest festival can be found in almost every culture.



Purpose the harvest festival: People celebrate to show that they are grateful for the year's supply of food

Location	Time	The people always do
Egypt	during the springtime	featured a parade and a great feast with music, dancing, and sports
Three examples countries	/	decorate churches and town halls with flowers and fruit get together to celebrate over a meal
	China	families gather to admire the shining moon and enjoy delicious mooncakes

custom

Skimming Para. 3

Tell the topic sentence and its function.

Topic sentence
as a general
idea to start
the discussion.

Customs play a **significant** role in festivals, but sometimes they can change over time. With the development of modern society and the spread of new ideas, some traditions may fade away and others may be established. One example is the **typical** Chinese Spring Festival custom of lighting firecrackers to drive away the evil spirits and celebrate the new year. Nowadays, many big cities have given up this custom in order to avoid air pollution. Another example is Halloween, which slowly became an exciting festival for children, in spite of its religious origins.




check the meaning of “*custom*”. Is *custom* something never change?

● 牛津高阶英汉双解词典(第九版)

cus·tom  /'kʌstəm/ *noun, adj.*

■ *noun*

➞ SEE ALSO [CUSTOMS](#)

1  [C, U] ~ (of doing sth) an accepted way of behaving or of doing things in a society or a community

风俗; 习俗:

always do ≠ permanent

● 柯林斯COBUILD英汉双解词典

1.2 something that the people of a community or society always do in particular circumstances because it is regarded as the right thing to do. 惯例。 N COUNT:USU *the+N, OR N UNCOUNT* ↑rule
= convention

Customs play a significant role in festivals, but sometimes they can change over time.

Customs play a significant role in festivals, but sometimes they can change over time.

	<i>In the past</i>	<i>nowadays</i>
Spring festival	 <p>lighting firecrackers to drive away the evil spirits and celebrate the new year</p>	<p>many big cities have given up this custom in order to avoid air pollution</p> 
Halloween	 <p>its religious origins</p>	<p>an exciting festival for children</p> 

Skimming Para. 4

Tell the topic sentence and its function.

Topic sentence states a general idea.

Festivals are becoming more and more commercial, with businesses taking advantage of the celebrations. Online shopping websites and social media apps have made it much easier for the public to spend more on gifts for their loved ones. Although some believe festivals should not be commercialised, others believe the increase in spending is good for the economy and public happiness.



• what do we mean by commercial?

• 柯林斯COBUILD英汉双解词典

2 Something is a **commercial** success, failure, etc. if it succeeds or fails to make money. 从利润角度出发的,以牟利为首要目标的。

ADJ CLASSIF: USU ATTRIB ↑ financial

¶ *People knew that Concorde would never be a commercial success...*

人们都知道协和式飞机绝赚不了大钱...

¶ *...the commercial future of nuclear power.*

...核动力的获利前景。

◇ **commercially**. 从利润角度;以牟利为目标。 ◇ ADV ↑ financially

¶ *...a commercially competitive nuclear reactor.*

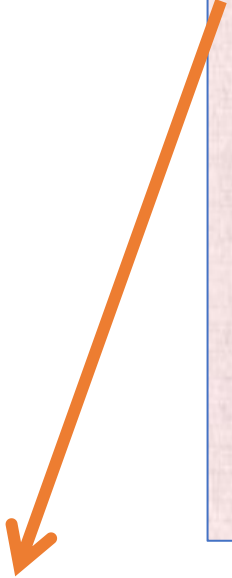
How about people's opinion?



Skimming Para. 5

Tell the topic sentence and its function.

Festivals are an important part of society. They **reflect** people's wishes, **beliefs, faiths,** and attitudes towards life. They are **occasions** that allow us to relax and enjoy life, and forget about our work for a little while. They help us understand where we came from, who we are, and what to appreciate. And if you study festivals carefully, you may be surprised to find that different cultures actually have a lot in common after all.



Topic sentence tells the main idea of this paragraph.

Why festivals are important? Find some supporting details.
what do most festival seem to have in common?

Topic sentence


Supporting details

*Festivals are an important part of society. **They reflect** people's wishes, beliefs, faiths, and attitudes towards life. **They are occasions that allow** us to relax and enjoy life, and forget about our work for a little while. **They help** us understand where we came from, who we are, and what to appreciate. And if you study festivals carefully, you may be surprised to find that different cultures actually have a lot **in common** after all.*

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE FESTIVALS?

Task

- Since festivals could be **different**, but also should have the positive qualities in **common**.
- Please create a new festival. Show us the **name, time, customs, and purpose** of this new festival.



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BE CREATIVE!

Useful sentence structure:

This festival takes place.....
the harvest festival was celebrated during.....
People celebrate to show that.....

They **reflect**
They are **occasions** that allow us...
They help us understand.....

- **Name:** Food-sharing Day.
- **Time:** This festival takes place in 16th Oct, which is the World Food Day.
- **Customs:** a pot-luck activity in class. Each student brings a dish cooked by himself/herself and shares with classmates.
- **Purpose:** People celebrate to show their ability of cooking. It helps us understand why we need to cherish food and keep away from waste.

- Today we want to introduce a No-homework Festival(name).
- This festival should be found in every culture. This important No-homework Festival takes place around November after the mid-term exam(time).
- Students celebrate to show their wish to have a rest. On that day, teachers cannot give assignments but only let students enjoy the class and take a rest after the class. In the meantime, it features a great feast with music, dancing on campus(custom).
- We think this festival reflects student's wishes to adjust themselves after a tense exam. This is an occasion that allows us to relax and enjoy school life, and forget about our busy schoolwork for a little while (purpose).

“And if you study festivals carefully, you may be surprised to find that different cultures actually have a lot in common after all! ”

