

1. INTRODUCTION	Ramadan Using photos to introduce the topic
2. VOCABULARY	Focus on Festivities
3. CONVERSATION	
4. SPEAKING PRACTICE	Days & Dates
5. WRITING	
6. PRONUNCIATION	Vowel sounds: /e/ and /ei/

As the fasting month of Ramadan has just started and is observed by many of our Muslim students we thought a lesson plan on festivities would be useful. Your student does not need to be Muslim to use this lesson plan, talk to your student about the festivities that they observe through their culture or religion and share information on the festivities you celebrate.

Below is some information on Ramadan if you would like to learn about it. If your student is observing the fasting month, please be aware that they may not have their full capacity to concentrate during the day, or they may want to cancel lessons for the month.

Ramadan - Islam

The date Ramadan begins and Eid ul-Fitr is celebrated depend on moon sightings, so changes each year.

The fourth pillar of Islam, which is fasting, is practiced during the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims are also expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam as well as refraining from anger, envy, greed, lust, sarcastic retorts, backstabbing, and gossip. They are encouraged to read the Qur'an. Obscene and irreligious sights and sounds are to be avoided. Women who are menstruating are not required to fast. Purity of both thought and action is important. The fast is intended to be an exacting act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to God. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, its purpose being to cleanse the inner soul and free it from harm. Properly observing the fast is supposed to induce a comfortable feeling of peace and calm. It also allows Muslims to practice self-discipline, sacrifice, as well as sympathy for those who are less fortunate, intending to make Muslims more generous and charitable.

The Islamic holiday of Eid ul-Fitr (Arabic: رَظفلا دىع) marks the end of the fasting period of Ramadan and the first day of the following month, after another new moon has been sighted. Eid ul-Fitr means the Festival of Breaking the Fast, a special celebration is made. Food is donated to the poor ('Zakat al-Fitr'), everyone put on their best, preferably new, clothes, and communal prayers are held in the early morning, followed by feasting and visiting relatives and friends.

Introductory Exercise

Take along to your lesson some photos of any religious or cultural events you have celebrated and discuss what is happening in the pictures with your student (i.e. a wedding or christening or religious event). If your student has photos of any ceremony or event they have participated in you can also discuss these and ask them to tell you what is happening in the photos. This is a good introductory exercise for all levels of students.

All exercises below can be used for different levels, so just pick and choose what your student may be capable of. For beginner students the lesson may involve just looking at photos, introducing basic vocabulary and practicing the months and dates. For intermediate students you should be able to cover all the activities and for more advanced students you may utilise the vocabulary, conversation and pronunciation exercises more than the other activities.

Vocabulary

Religion	Feast	Festival	God
Culture	Mosque	Wedding	Decoration
Celebration	Church	Birthday	Delicacy
Ceremony	Temple	Anniversary	
Prayer	Ritual	Shrine	
Fasting	Tradition	Pilgrimage	

Conversation

Which festivals do you celebrate throughout the year?

Are these religious or cultural festivals?

Which is your favourite celebration in the year, & why?

What do you usually wear on the day of this celebration?

What do you do on this day?

Does the celebration involve eating?

Is there any special food that people cook on this day?

Does your country observe a public holiday for this celebration?

Speaking Practice

Days and Dates

Take along a calendar if your student doesn't have one and practice days and dates of the year. Their favourite celebration may be based on a different calendar but see if they know which day/date it is held on in 2007.

What date and month is your favourite celebration held on?

1st <i>first</i>	11th <i>eleventh</i>	21st <i>twenty first</i>	31st <i>thirty</i>
<i>first</i>			
2nd	12th	22nd	
3rd	13th	23rd	
4th	14th	24th	
5th	15th	25th	
6th	16th	26th	
7th	17th	27th	
8th	18th	28th	
9th	19th	29th	
10th	20th	30th	

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Writing Practice

My favourite festival is held on

My birthday is on

.....

My Mother's birthday is on

My father's birthday is on

I arrived in Australia on

.....

New Years day is celebrated on

Write the month next to the abbreviation

Apr

Sept

Nov

Aug

Jan

Jun

Jul

Mar

Feb

Oct

May

Dec

Pronunciation: /e/ (as in pen) and /ei/ (as in pain)

Practice the following vowel sounds and see if your student can hear the difference.

/e/

/ei/

wet

weight

pen

pain

sell

sail

well

whale

Festivals and Celebrations

Read this text once and then ask your student to read it aloud, concentrating on the vowel sounds of /e/ and /ei/ in the underlined words.

Festivals and celebrations have been held since the beginning of history to celebrate special events. In ancient times, people celebrated the beginning of spring and held festivals to celebrate successful harvests. This century, people celebrate for many different reasons. Some people celebrate special days to remember saints or important religious events. In some places, important leaders are hailed when national independence days are held. Celebrations are often a time when gifts are sent and family and friends get together.

In multicultural countries, where there's a mixture of different races and religions, a great variety of interesting and exciting festivals are celebrated every year. In fact,

there is a festival or celebration taking place in some city in the world almost every day of the year.

In some celebrations, people wear their national dress, decorate their homes and public place and play special games. Many festivals involve parades where people are entertained by people dressed as animals to tell special tales or legends. Religious celebrations are often a time to pray and remember past events.

When celebrating special events, people around the world use different calendars to mark these events. For example, the Hindu and Muslim calendars are based on the phases of the Moon, whereas the calendar used mainly in western society (known as the Gregorian calendar), is based on the timing of the earth's journey around the Sun. As a result, many people today use the Gregorian calendar for business and day to day living, but use their religious calendar to mark the special dates of festivals and religious celebrations.

Ask your student to repeat the following words from the text. Is the underlined sound /e/ or /ei/?

special	events	ancient <u>held</u>	ha <u>iled</u>	cent <u>ury</u>
independ <u>ence</u>	da <u>ys</u>	ra <u>ces</u>	gr <u>eat</u>	pl <u>ace</u>
se <u>nt</u>	sa <u>int</u>	celebr <u>ate</u>	celebrat <u>ion</u>	ph <u>ases</u>

Ask your student to write the word in the correct column below according to the underlined sound – make sure they are not confused by spelling and focussing on the pronunciation of the word.

1) Sound /e/ as in the word pen

2) Sound /ei/ as in the word pain

Special

ancient