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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/03/14

## What is Easter?

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. In many countries Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays. Easter is a moveable date. It is held on the first Sunday after the full moon following the March equinox.

Easter is preceded by Lent, a forty day period of fasting, penance and prayer. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. It includes Maundy Thursday; when various religious leaders wash people's feet.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. His body was then moved to a cave where it was placed in a tomb. The cave's entrance was covered by a giant stone put there by Roman soldiers. Many Christians remember this by going to church on Good Friday. In the Philippines some people re-enact the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday is when Jesus was resurrected i.e. when he came back to life. Mary Magdalene, who was one of his followers, visited his tomb on this day. She found the huge stone had been moved and the body of Jesus had gone. Later that day Mary and Jesus' Disciples saw him alive. Many more people saw Jesus for the next 40 days. This period is known as the Resurrection.

Today Easter is celebrated in different ways. Some people go to church. Others celebrate it with Easter bunnies. There are Easter egg hunts and Easter parades. Some places hold egg rolling competitions. Chocolate eggs are popular.

The greatest symbol of Easter is the egg. It represents hope and new life. In Central Europe Easter Markets have become highly popular. They can be found in Prague, (Czech Republic) Salzburg and Vienna (Austria), and Nuremburg (Germany). All feature many different eggs!

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things about Easter. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is Lent?
- 2) What is Good Friday?
- 3) What is Easter Monday?
- 4) What is an egg?
- 5) What has become highly popular?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Who was Jesus?
- 2) What do various religious leaders do?
- 3) Who was Mary Magdalene?
- 4) What is the resurrection?
- 5) Describe how Easter is celebrated in different ways.

**Category: Easter / Jesus / Tradition**  
**Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## What is Easter? - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Easter**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Write three things you know about Good Friday. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three things you know about Easter Sunday. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three things you know about Easter Monday. Discuss together.

- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs,* write down five Easter traditions that are in held your country. Then think of five that are held around the world. Compare! Discuss together.

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their findings to the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How do you normally celebrate Easter?
- 3) Are you a religious person who celebrates Easter? How? Explain.
- 4) Is Easter too commercial today?
- 5) Do you give or receive Easter eggs?
- 6) Do you receive chocolate eggs or other types of eggs?
- 7) Have you ever taken part in an Easter Egg Hunt?
- 8) Why do we celebrate Easter?
- 9) Have you ever decorated an egg?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests who all work the night shift. You are in the ABC Vatican TV studio. Today's interview is: *What is Easter? 10 mins.*

- 1) A tourist visiting the Vatican.
- 2) A chocolate egg maker.
- 3) A non-believer in God.
- 4) A religious person.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* Student A is on one country. Student B is in another on the opposite side of the world (Imagine!). You are each discussing Easter in your country and how you spend it! *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

What is Easter?

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you go to church a lot?
- 3) Would you like to take part in an egg rolling competition?
- 4) What does Easter mean to you?
- 5) Is the greatest symbol of Easter the egg? Explain!
- 6) What will you do at Easter?
- 7) What did you do last Easter?
- 8) Would you like to visit an Easter Market in Central Europe?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### What is Easter?

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the (1)\_\_\_ of Christ after his crucifixion. In many countries Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays. Easter is a moveable date. It is held on the first Sunday after the full moon following the March (2)\_\_\_.

(3)\_\_\_ is preceded by Lent, a forty day period of fasting, penance and prayer. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. It includes Maundy Thursday; when various religious leaders wash people's feet.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and (4)\_\_\_ of Jesus. His (5)\_\_\_ was then moved to a cave where it was placed in a (6)\_\_\_ . The cave's entrance was covered by a giant stone put there by Roman soldiers. Many Christians remember this by going to church on Good Friday. In the Philippines some people (7)\_\_\_ the (8)\_\_\_.

***equinox / tomb / crucifixion / resurrection / death / Easter / re-enact / body***

Easter Sunday is when Jesus was resurrected i.e. when he came back to life. Mary Magdalene, who was one of his (1)\_\_\_, visited his tomb on this day. She found the huge stone had been moved and the body of Jesus had gone. Later that day Mary and Jesus' Disciples saw him (2)\_\_\_ . Many more people saw Jesus for the next 40 days. This period is known as the Resurrection.

Today Easter is celebrated in different ways. Some people go to (3)\_\_\_ . Others celebrate it with Easter (4)\_\_\_ . There are Easter egg hunts and Easter parades. Some places hold egg rolling competitions. Chocolate eggs are (5)\_\_\_ .

The greatest (6)\_\_\_ of Easter is the egg. It represents (7)\_\_\_ and new life. In Central Europe Easter Markets have become highly popular. They can be found in Prague, (Czech Republic) Salzburg and Vienna (Austria), and Nuremburg (Germany). All feature many different (8)\_\_\_!

***eggs / followers / bunnies / hope / popular / symbol / alive / church***

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### What is Easter?

Easter is a Christian holiday (1)\_\_\_ celebrates the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. In (2)\_\_\_ countries Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays. Easter is a moveable date. It is held on the first Sunday (3)\_\_\_ the full moon following the March equinox.

Easter is preceded by Lent, a forty day period of fasting, penance and prayer. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. It includes Maundy Thursday; (4)\_\_\_ various religious leaders wash people's feet.

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. His body was (5)\_\_\_ moved to a cave (6)\_\_\_ it was placed in a tomb. The cave's entrance was covered by a giant stone put there by Roman soldiers. Many Christians remember (7)\_\_\_ by going to church on Good Friday. In the Philippines (8)\_\_\_ people re-enact the crucifixion.

***many / that / some / then / when / where / this / after***

Easter Sunday is when Jesus was resurrected i.e. when (1)\_\_\_ came back to life. Mary Magdalene, (2)\_\_\_ was one of (3)\_\_\_ followers, visited his tomb on this day. (4)\_\_\_ found the huge stone had been moved and the body of Jesus had gone. Later that day Mary and Jesus' Disciples saw him alive. Many more people saw Jesus (5)\_\_\_ the next 40 days. This period is known as the Resurrection.

Today Easter is celebrated in different ways. Some people go to church. Others celebrate it with Easter bunnies. There are Easter egg hunts and Easter parades. Some places hold egg rolling competitions. Chocolate eggs are popular.

The greatest symbol (6)\_\_\_ Easter is the egg. (7)\_\_\_ represents hope and new life. In Central Europe Easter Markets have become highly popular. They can be found (8)\_\_\_ Prague, (Czech Republic) Salzburg and Vienna (Austria), and Nuremburg (Germany). All feature many different eggs!

***in / it / he / of / his / she / for / who***

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### What is Easter?

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs, as a class* - write down 20 different things about Easter. Talk about them! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Easter \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) At Easter \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Eggs \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **What is Easter?** Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) resurrection
- 2) equinox
- 3) Easter
- 4) death
- 5) body
- 6) tomb
- 7) re-enact
- 8) crucifixion

### ANSWERS

- 1) followers
- 2) alive
- 3) church
- 4) bunnies
- 5) popular
- 6) symbol
- 7) hope
- 8) eggs

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) chocolate
- 2) religious
- 3) penance
- 4) crucifixion
- 5) soldiers
- 6) re-enact
- 7) tomb
- 8) later
- 9) alive
- 10) church

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) different
- 12) bunnies
- 13) parades
- 14) competitions
- 15) symbol
- 16) highly
- 17) different
- 18) countries
- 19) equinox
- 20) various

What is Easter? - *30<sup>th</sup> March 2014*