

Valentine's Day!

Today let's talk about Valentine's Day! In case you didn't know it is on February 14th. It is celebrated in many countries around the world. These days it is pretty commercial. Known also as St Valentine's Day it is associated with love! Valentine's Day symbols include heart shapes, doves and the figure of a winged cupid.

In Britain in the 18th century handwritten greeting cards were sent. Lovers also expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, and confectionary. By 1900 handwritten cards had given way to mass-produced greeting cards; all these traditions still continue. Nowadays lovers also send SMS messages and email cards. A dozen red roses remain a popular gift to send your lover.

The rise in commercialism of Valentine's Day is staggering. Every year Americans send an estimated 1 billion Valentine's cards, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (Christmas sees an estimated 2.6 billion cards sent). Surprisingly women purchase 85% of all Valentine's!

Valentine himself was a real man. He was persecuted as a Christian. Valentine was interrogated by Roman Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was impressed by him and attempted to convert Valentine to Roman paganism. When he refused and tried to get the Emperor to convert to Christianity Valentine was executed.

According to one legend before he was executed Valentine sent the first valentine to the daughter of his jailer Asterius - signing it "Your Valentine". The expression "From your Valentine" was later adopted by modern Valentine letters.

Will you be sending a Valentine this year or will you simply ignore the day?

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Valentine's Day. 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) Name the Emperor.
- 2) Name the jailer.
- 3) Name three Valentine symbols.
- 4) What day is Valentine's Day?
- 5) How many Valentine cards are sent in America each year?

Student B questions

- 1) What message did Valentine send his lover?
- 2) How many Christmas cards are sent each year by Americans?
- 3) What happened in 1900?
- 4) What is pretty commercial?
- 5) Who tried to convert who to what?

Valentine's Day - 5th February 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Choose three Valentine gifts you might send your lover. Write them below. Add three types of card that are possible to send. Talk about them.

- 1) _____ (4) _____
- 2) _____ (5) _____
- 3) _____ (6) _____

Add three advantages and three disadvantages of Valentine's Day. Discuss together.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, think of three other similar such day's like Valentine's Day that are celebrated in your country. Write them down then talk about them. Which do you prefer best? *5 mins.*

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

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How do you celebrate Valentine's Day?
- 3) Is Valentine's Day too commercial?
- 4) How long has Valentine's Day been celebrated in your country?
- 5) Do you send Valentine cards?
- 6) Do you send Valentine gifts?
- 7) When did you last send/receive a dozen red roses?
- 8) Did you know who Valentine was before this lesson?
- 9) Are you surprised to learn more women send Valentine's than men in the USA?
- 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. You are in the Love FM radio studio. Today's interview is: *Valentine's Day.* *10 mins.*

- 1) A man wishing to propose to his girlfriend.
- 2) A girl who has just received a dozen red roses.
- 3) A florist.
- 4) A confectioner.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Together or each of you plans a Valentine night to remember! Think of where you might go, what you might do, what you might give your lover etc... Discuss together. (Imagine!) *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Valentine's Day
Is it too commercial?
Talk about how it is spent in your country and another.

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What is the best restaurant to go to for Valentine's Day in your town/city?
- 3) Which are the best florists to visit?
- 4) Which is the best confectioner's shop?
- 5) Do you like chocolates?
- 6) Will you be sending a Valentine this year or will you simply ignore the day?
- 7) Why is Valentine's Day still popular?
- 8) Is love still important these days?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Valentine's Day!

Today let's talk about Valentine's Day! In case you didn't know it is on February 14th. It is celebrated in many countries around the world. These days it is (1)___ commercial. Known also as St Valentine's Day it is associated with (2)___! Valentine's Day symbols include heart shapes, doves and the figure of a winged cupid.

In Britain in the 18th century (3)___ greeting cards were sent. Lovers also expressed their love for each other by presenting (4)___, and (5)___. By 1900 handwritten cards had given way to mass-produced greeting cards; all these (6)___ still continue. (7)___ lovers also send SMS messages and email cards. A dozen red roses remain a popular gift to send your lover.

The rise in (8)___ of Valentine's Day is staggering. Every year Americans send an estimated 1 billion Valentine's cards, making Valentine's Day

handwritten / love / nowadays / traditions / confectionary / commercialism / flowers / pretty

the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (Christmas sees an estimated 2.6 (1)___ cards sent). Surprisingly women purchase 85% of all Valentine's!

Valentine (2)___ was a real man. He was persecuted as a Christian. Valentine was interrogated by Roman Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was impressed by him and attempted to convert Valentine to Roman (3)___. When he refused and tried to get the Emperor to (4)___ to Christianity Valentine was executed.

According to one (5)___ before he was executed Valentine sent the first valentine to the daughter of his (6)___ Asterius - signing it "Your Valentine". The expression "From your Valentine" was later adopted by modern Valentine letters.

Will you be sending a (7)___ this year or will you simply (8)___ the day?

valentine / convert / ignore / jailer / legend / billion / himself / paganism

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Valentine's Day!

Today let's talk about Valentine's Day! In case you didn't know it is on February 14th. It is celebrated in many countries around the world. (1)___ days it is pretty commercial. Known also as St Valentine's Day it is associated (2)___ love! Valentine's Day symbols include heart shapes, doves and the figure of a winged cupid.

In Britain in the 18th century handwritten greeting cards were sent. Lovers (3)___ expressed (4)___ love for (5)___ other by presenting flowers, and confectionary. By 1900 handwritten cards had given way to mass-produced greeting cards; all these traditions (6)___ continue. Nowadays lovers also send SMS messages and email cards. A dozen red roses remain a popular gift to send (7)___ lover.

The rise in commercialism of Valentine's Day is staggering. (8)___ year Americans send an estimated 1 billion Valentine's cards, making Valentine's Day

still / every / your / their / also / with / these / each

the second largest card-sending holiday (1)___ the year (Christmas sees (2)___ estimated 2.6 billion cards sent). Surprisingly women purchase 85% of all Valentine's!

Valentine himself was a real man. He was persecuted as a Christian. Valentine was interrogated (3)___ Roman Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was impressed by (4)___ and attempted to convert Valentine to Roman paganism. When he refused and tried to get the Emperor to convert to Christianity Valentine was executed.

According to one legend before (5)___ was executed Valentine sent the first valentine to the daughter of (6)___ jailer Asterius - signing (7)___ "Your Valentine". The expression "From your Valentine" was later adopted by modern Valentine letters.

Will you be sending a Valentine this year (8)___ will you simply ignore the day?

he / or / of / an / by / it / him / his

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Valentine's Day!

Today let's talk about _____. In case you didn't know it is on February 14th. It is celebrated in many countries around the world. These days it is _____. Known also as St Valentine's Day it is associated with love! Valentine's Day symbols include heart shapes, doves and the figure of a winged cupid.

In Britain in the 18th century handwritten greeting cards were sent. _____ their love for each other by presenting flowers, and confectionary. By 1900 handwritten cards had given way to mass-produced greeting cards; all these traditions still continue. _____ send SMS messages and email cards. A dozen red roses remain a popular gift to send your lover.

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the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (Christmas sees an estimated 2.6 billion cards sent). _____ purchase 85% of all Valentine's!

Valentine himself was a real man. He was persecuted as a Christian. _____ by Roman Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was impressed by him and attempted to convert Valentine to Roman paganism. _____ tried to get the Emperor to convert to Christianity Valentine was executed.

According to one legend before he was executed Valentine sent the first valentine to the daughter of his jailer Asterius - signing it "Your Valentine". The expression "_____" was later adopted by modern Valentine letters.

Will you be sending a Valentine this year or will you _____?

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs, as a class* - write down 20 things you know about **Valentine's Day**. Talk about them! *5 mins.*

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

- 1) I love _____
- 2) Valentine's Day _____
- 3) Red roses _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Valentine's Day**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) pretty
- 2) love
- 3) handwritten
- 4) flowers
- 5) confectionary
- 6) traditions
- 7) nowadays
- 8) commercialism

ANSWERS

- 1) billion
- 2) himself
- 3) paganism
- 4) convert
- 5) legend
- 6) jailer
- 7) valentine
- 8) ignore

SPELLING

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

- 1) handwritten
- 2) cupid
- 3) commercial
- 4) symbols
- 5) confectionary
- 6) traditions
- 7) nowadays
- 8) dozen
- 9) popular
- 10) commercialism

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) billion
- 12) Christian
- 13) Paganism
- 14) Emperor
- 15) legend
- 16) jailer
- 17) jailer
- 18) expression
- 19) modern
- 20) ignore

Valentine's Day - *5th February 2014*