

Summer in the City

1. Read the newspaper item. What is the weather like in summer?

The New Zealand Times

December 2004

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Summer is here. Days are longer, the sun is hotter and people are happier! There is lots of holiday time. Children and their parents want things to do.

This summer there are many things happening in the city. The council is organising lots of fun activities for families:

- Christmas parade
- Carols by candlelight
- Boxing Day picnic
- Trips to the beach
- Concerts in the park
- New Year's Eve family party
- Storytime at the library
- Teddy Bears' picnic
- Music at the zoo
- Sports day in the park
- Chinese New Year celebrations

The houses in one city street will have beautiful Christmas lights in their gardens. Visit this street at nighttime in the week before Xmas.

Many communities will have fairs with clothes, plants and household things for sale. Some fairs will have ethnic food to eat.

Remember to read this newspaper every day to find out the dates, times and places for these events. Relax and enjoy your summer in the city!

2. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is the name of the newspaper?
- 2 Why do you think families want things to do in the holidays?
- 3 How many activities is the council organising?
- 4 What can people see in the gardens in one street?
- 5 Can you find another word that means *Christmas*?
- 6 How can you find out when the events are happening?



3. Talk to your tutor.

- 1 What things do you take on a picnic?
- 2 Ask your tutor to tell you about one activity you don't know about.
- 3 Which activity do you like? Why? Explain it to your tutor.
- 4 Tell your tutor what you do in summer in your home town or city.



Seasonal Word Search Puzzle



A fun filler activity. The words go down, across and diagonally up and down.

Two people could work together or in competition with each other!

p	a	r	k	o	p	e	m	e	r	r	y	d	b	c
o	f	g	y	l	d	f	i	s	m	i	l	e	s	h
f	u	l	f	a	f	c	a	r	o	l	s	c	u	f
r	o	t	r	e	e	v	r	o	r	j	l	e	m	p
u	v	a	p	k	f	n	v	f	o	o	d	m	m	c
i	p	c	h	r	i	s	t	m	a	s	t	b	e	o
t	s	i	b	c	m	f	d	r	u	m	i	e	r	n
c	t	l	e	i	i	t	u	g	k	o	i	r	g	c
a	o	p	a	g	h	o	l	i	d	a	y	l	m	e
k	c	p	c	h	k	c	a	r	d	s	f	y	y	r
e	k	o	h	i	y	a	k	g	s	t	a	r	u	t
g	i	f	r	i	e	n	d	s	d	t	i	n	u	m
a	n	c	h	i	l	d	r	e	n	u	o	i	t	m
s	g	h	n	j	l	l	i	g	h	t	s	r	t	a
p	i	c	n	i	c	e	p	r	e	s	e	n	t	s



beach
candle
cards
carols
children
christmas
concert
december
family

food
friends
fruitcake
gift
holiday
lights
merry
parade
park

picnic
presents
santa
smiles
summer
star
stocking
tree



Unscramble these seasonal words from the list above:

nehlidrc _____

eret _____

kpra _____

hecab _____

tifg _____

remry _____

lidaohy _____

dascr _____

rast _____

dierfns _____

cipnci _____

lesism _____

What are you up to in the holidays?

Activity using some of the vocabulary from “Summer in the City”. First record the dialogue with someone. The first listening: ask your learner to answer one simple question. Cut the dialogue into strips and ask them to reorder it. Copy it again and blank out some of the words. Read through in pairs. Discuss unfamiliar words. See if they can guess the meaning from context before you supply an answer. Ask them to record it with you. Let them keep the tape to listen for revision next week. Use as a model for your own conversation about the holidays. Use some of the words below.

Anita: “What are you *up to* in the holidays?”

Jo: “Not much. We’re staying home because driving is such a *hassle*. The summer traffic is always terrible and there are *heaps of accidents*.”

Anita: “We’re all going to the beach for a week. It will be great.”

Jo: “That sounds lovely. I hope you have a good time.”

Anita: “Thanks. Won’t you be bored here?”

Jo: “*No way*. There’s *plenty* to do in the city in summer.”

Anita: “Yeah? What’s happening?”

Jo: “There are lots of fairs and free concerts in the park.”

Anita: “That’s true. And you can do some day trips away—picnics at the beach.”

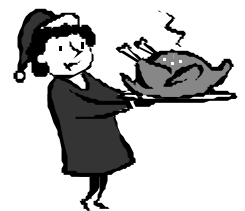
Jo: “Yes. But also I’m planning to *catch up on* some reading and gardening.”

Anita: “Sounds relaxing. Maybe I’ll let the kids go and I’ll stay here and *hang out* with you in a café!”

Jo: “And who will do all the cooking and stop the kids from staying up all night?!”

Anita: “Oh, you’re right, *I’d better* go with them.”

Jo: “Have a good trip and drive safely!”



Match the words with their meaning:

up to?	a problem, difficult, annoying
I'd better	to do something you haven't had much time to do
a hassle	to spend time with someone in a relaxing way
no way	doing?
to catch up on	I should/must
to hang out	lots of
heaps of/plenty	no! (a very strong 'no')

Chinese New Year 2005



Gung Hay Fat Choy!
Happy New Year for 2005!

新年快樂

Chinese New Year dates from 2600 BC, and was started by the Emperor Huang Ti. The Chinese calendar is a lunar (moon) calendar, and New Year's Day is different every year. The first day is usually between late January and the middle of February. In 2005, it is on February 9, 2005 (Lunar Year 4703) and it is the year of the Rooster.

The Year of the Rooster

People who are born in the year of the Rooster are hard-working and confident. They are quick

thinkers and practical people. They like to be busy and always think that they are right! Because of this, sometimes they can be difficult to work with. They are always interesting and can be brave. The best partners for them are the Ox, Snake and Dragon.

Roosters are good actors, singers, lawyers, brain surgeons, restaurant owners, and even accountants. Famous people born in the year of the Rooster: Dolly Parton, Yoko Ono, Katherine Hepburn, Eric Clapton and Rod Stewart

People born in these years are Roosters:
1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

This is a 'split dictation' activity:

Introduce the topic—discuss New year in NZ and your learner's country. Do they know about Chinese New Year too? Start the activity.

Explain that you will share the task – doing 1/2 the work each.

As 'A', you start. Read a few words & then spell them as your learner writes them in the blank spaces on their paper.

Then switch – your learner reads/spells & you write.

Of course, you might like to make up your own worksheets based on this one! If your learner is higher level you could make a split dictation from the text above.

Chinese New Year is celebrated over 15 days. People clean their houses very well before New Year, but there is no cleaning on Chinese New Year's Day because you may sweep away good luck. Also, you can't use knives or scissors or you may cut off good luck.

In New Zealand there are celebrations in the main cities. There is usually a street parade with a special lion or dragon dance.

Chinese people eat seafood and red is the lucky colour to wear.

(A) Chinese New Year _____ over 15 days. _____
_____ very well before _____,
but there is no cleaning _____
_____ you may sweep away _____,
you can't use _____ or you may _____.

In New Zealand, _____ in the main cities.
_____ a street parade with _____
_____ dragon dance.

Chinese people eat _____ is the lucky _____.

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(B) _____ is celebrated _____.

People clean their houses _____ New Year's Day,
_____ on Chinese New Year's
Day because _____ good luck. Also,
_____ knives or scissors _____ cut
off good luck.

_____, there are celebrations _____
_____. There is usually _____
a special lion or _____.

_____ seafood and red _____
_____ colour to wear.