



4. Holidays and Celebrations

1. What are the red letter days in your family?
2. What is the greatest family celebration for you?
3. How do you celebrate your birthday?
4. How is the birth of a baby celebrated in Hungary?
5. What is a Hungarian wedding like?
6. What sorts of presents does the new couple get?
7. What parties are organised for the couple before the wedding?
8. Are namedays celebrated all over the world?
9. What celebrations are there at schools in Hungary?
10. What do we celebrate at Christmas?
11. How do the Hungarians celebrate Christmas?
12. What is an English Christmas like?
13. How do we celebrate New Year's Eve?
14. How is New Year's Eve celebrated in England?
15. What do we celebrate at Easter?
16. How do we celebrate Easter?
17. How is Easter celebrated in England?
18. What public holidays are there in Hungary?
19. What English public holidays have you heard of?
20. What is Valentine's Day?
21. How do the English celebrate May Day?
22. Is the Queen's birthday a public holiday?
23. How is Halloween celebrated?
24. What is Guy Fawkes Night?
25. How is Armistice Day celebrated?
26. What public holidays are there in the USA?
27. What are Memorial Day and Veterans' Day?
28. How do the Americans celebrate Independence Day?
29. What is Thanksgiving and how is it celebrated?
30. Which originally American holidays have spread to other countries?

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1. We celebrate birthdays, namedays, wedding anniversaries, Mother's Day, Christmas, and Easter.
2. I like birthdays the most because the whole family comes together for these occasions.
3. In my family we always celebrate birthdays at weekend so that those relatives of ours can come who live a bit far from us. On my birthday, my mother always cooks my favourite dishes, mushroom soup and stuffed chicken with mashed potatoes and parsley. She also orders a cake from the most popular confectionery in town. I have to blow the candles on the cake before I get my presents. I like surprises very much, so nobody tells me what I will get. When I have opened my presents, we sit down to chat a little bit and then play my favourite board games.
4. When the baby is about five months, the family organises the christening. The whole family goes to a church where a priest christens the baby. If the parents are not religious, they organise a name-giving ceremony in the town hall. After the ceremony the family gathers either in the home of the parents or in a restaurant and has lunch or dinner.
5. In Hungary most people get married on a Saturday afternoon. All couples have to get married in a registry office, and those who are religious have a church wedding, too. In the registry office, the ceremony is led by a registrar, and the couple and their two witnesses sign the register. The two ceremonies might be on different days, and in this case the couple dress up differently for the two occasions. In the church, the bride wears a long white wedding dress with a veil and a train, and the bridegroom an elegant dark suit with a white shirt and a tie. The bride holds a bouquet, and the bridegroom has a boutonniere. After the ceremony there is a reception, which in villages is often held in a big tent. At the reception several kinds of dishes are served and the new couple cuts the wedding cake. At midnight the couple change their clothes and the so-called bride's dance starts. All the guests dance with the bride and give some money to the couple to contribute to their new life together.
6. The new couple usually gets cutlery and crockery, pots and pans, all kinds of kitchen equipment, things for decorating their flat, bed and table linen, and gift vouchers.
7. The friends of the fiancé organise a stag night for him. It can be house party or they can book a room in a restaurant or pub. They drink and eat and enjoy themselves all night. A similar party, called a hen party, is organised by the friends of the fiancée where only women are present.
8. No, they are not celebrated, for example, in English-speaking countries. In Hungary namedays are almost as important as birthdays and are celebrated in all families.
9. We have an opening and a closing ceremony and we celebrate national holidays, such as October 23 and March 15. In primary school the junior section celebrates Mothers' Day and Christmas. In secondary school there is school leavers' ball and their farewell ceremony.



10. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
11. The most important day is Christmas Eve, December 24, when the family comes together for the Christmas dinner. The traditional dishes are fish soup, stuffed cabbage and poppy seed and nut rolls. The Christmas tree is decorated before the dinner with sweets, brightly coloured lights and glass ornaments, and Christmas presents are placed under it. The beautifully wrapped presents are opened in the evening. At midnight a lot of families go to church for the midnight service. On Christmas Day and Boxing Day relatives visit each other and have lunch together.
12. In England Christmas Eve is the time for the annual office party and many English people go to a midnight mass, while others go to church on the morning of Christmas Day. When they go to bed, children hang up an old stocking at the head of their bed for Father Christmas, also called Santa Claus, to put presents in. The presents are found either in the stockings or under the Christmas tree, which has been decorated with brightly coloured lights and glass ornaments. According to old Celtic traditions, the houses are also decorated with evergreen plants like holly and ivy, and mistletoe, the holy plant of the druids, is pinned up. Unlike many other European countries, it is Christmas Day, not Christmas Eve, that is the most important day of the Christmas holidays. This is the day when families come together, presents are opened and Christmas dinner is eaten. At the start of the meal, most people pull Christmas crackers, which are decorated paper tubes that make a noise when pulled apart. They contain a small toy, joke and a paper hat, which is worn during the dinner. Christmas dinner usually consists of roast turkey and roast potatoes and vegetables, followed by a plum pudding. Other traditional foods of the Christmas season are mince pies, pastry filled with spiced raisins and currants, and Christmas cake, a heavy rich fruit-cake, often laced with brandy. On 26 December, Boxing Day, fewer and fewer people give gifts or 'boxes' for regular callers, such as dustmen and postmen, but the day is still called Boxing Day because of this old tradition. Since Boxing day is a public holiday, most people can go and watch the colourful Boxing Day 'hunt' in town squares and other places, but shop assistants have to work, since this is also the first day of the winter sales.
13. In Hungary on New Year's Eve people usually go to parties where they eat and drink and enjoy themselves. At midnight they drink champagne and sing the national anthem. Then people go to the streets and watch the fireworks.
14. In England people go to parties or dances on New Year's Eve. At midnight they drink a toast to the New Year and link arms to sing 'Auld Lang Syne'. In large towns and cities people gather in the streets to "see the new year in". In London, thousands of people gather to celebrate at Trafalgar Square.
15. At Easter we celebrate the Resurrection, that is, the rising of Jesus Christ from the tomb three days after his crucifixion. The manner of Christ's death and his resurrection prove to Christians that he is the Son of God.

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16. On Easter Sunday morning we eat ham, hard-boiled eggs and cold pork in aspic. On Easter Monday boys visit their relatives and friends and sprinkle women and girls with perfume or water. They get chocolate or painted eggs, and chocolate bunnies.
17. On Good Friday, and during the whole Easter period, it is popular to eat hot cross buns, which are spicy sweet buns with a pastry cross on the top. In England many people go to church on Easter Sunday. Children get Easter eggs, which symbolise new life and which are usually made of chocolate with a present inside. In England painting real eggs or hunting for them are not widespread customs. Easter Monday is a bank holiday and many people go to travelling fun fairs on this day.
18. The Hungarians celebrate March 15, the day of the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49, August 20, the day of King Stephen I, and October 23, the day of the Declaration of the Hungarian Republic. We also celebrate the Constitution and the new bread on August 20.
19. As far as I know, public holidays in England are called bank holidays because on these days the banks are closed. New Year's Day, Easter Monday and Boxing Day are bank holidays. For the past few years the British have also observed the May Bank Holiday, to be in line with the other EU countries. May Bank Holiday is the first Monday in May. The British also celebrate St Valentine's Day, May Day, the Queen's birthday, Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night and Armistice Day.
20. St Valentine's Day, February 14, is the day of lovers. People send a card to somebody they love without putting their names on it. Some people put ads in newspapers. You should try to guess who the sender is. The most popular motifs on the cards are hearts, red roses and Cupids.
21. In the countryside people set up maypoles and dance around them. They also crown a schoolgirl as May Queen. In towns you can also see Morris Dancers, men dressed in white with coloured ribbons, cross-belts and bells who dance in groups of six, either clashing sticks or waving handkerchiefs while dancing.
22. No, it is not. It traditionally takes place on the second Sunday in June and hundreds of people go to watch the 'Trooping of the Colour', the Queen inspecting the troops parading their regimental flag. The Queen's official birthday is also the day when British embassies give parties similar to those given by other nations on their National Day or Independence Day.
23. Halloween, October 31, is a time for children's parties where the most popular games involve apples, which have to be seized with teeth if they are hung on a string, or with a fork in one's mouth if they are floating on water. The apple is then peeled in one long strip, which is thrown over the left shoulder to form the initial of the thrower's true love's name. Children dress up as witches or in other costumes, make lanterns of pumpkins and light candles inside them to scare the witches away. Many children go from house to house wearing their costumes and carrying their lanterns



and ask for money or sweets. In recent years English children have also started to play 'trick or treat', like American children. That is, they visit houses wearing costumes and knock at the door, and when it's opened, they say trick or treat. 'Trick' means playing a joke, and 'treat' means getting a gift, usually sweets. This day is celebrated both in Great Britain and in the United States.

24. Guy Fawkes, together with some other men, tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament on November 5, 1605. These people wanted to kill Protestant King James I and make England Catholic again. They were discovered in the cellars with barrels of gunpowder, tried and executed. This anniversary is celebrated with fireworks and bonfires. Figures of Guy Fawkes are burned on the bonfires and later sausages are toasted on the fire and potatoes are baked in the embers.
25. On Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, November 11, people remember all those who have died for their country. Remembrance Sunday is the Sunday nearest to the Armistice Day. On this day people wear artificial red poppies sold by ex-servicemen to raise money for ex-servicemen and -women. The poppies symbolise the poppies in the cornfields in Flanders during the First World War.
26. In the United States each state has its own legal holidays but most states observe the holidays set by the federal government. These holidays are: New Year's Day (January 1), Martin Luther King's Birthday (3rd Monday in January), Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February), Memorial Day (last Monday in May), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (1st Monday in September), Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October), Veterans' Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November), and Christmas Day (December 25).
27. Memorial Day and Veteran's Day are celebrated in the honour of the members of the armed forces and other people who have died in wars.
28. Independence Day, also known as Fourth of July, is celebrated with fireworks, picnics, processions, flags, and speeches. People organise parties for the whole neighbourhood, on beaches, parks or suburban lawns. People eat hot dogs and hamburgers, play volleyball and softball, and at night there are fireworks.
29. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the USA. People celebrate this day to remember how God and the native Americans saved them from starvation in the 17th century. The most important part of the celebration is the dinner which includes turkey or ham, sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce or jelly, corn dishes, and breads and rolls. Most Americans eat pumpkin pie for dessert. On Thanksgiving there are special TV programmes and sports events are broadcast.
30. These are Labor Day, which is usually celebrated on the first of May in other countries, Thanksgiving, which is observed in Canada, and Mother's Day, which is celebrated all over the world, usually on a Sunday in May.

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All Saints' Day	'ɔ:l seɪnts ,deɪ	mindenszentek napja
All Souls' Day	'ɔ:l səʊlz ,deɪ	halottak napja
April Fool's Day	ˌeɪprəl ˈfu:lz ,deɪ	bolondok napja, április elseje
Armistice Day (GB)	ˈɑ:mɪstɪs ,deɪ	az első világháború befejezésének ünnepe
artificial	ˌɑ:tɪˈfɪʃl	mesterséges
Ash Wednesday	ˌæʃ ˈwenzdeɪ	hamvazószerda
aspic	ˈæspɪk	kocsonya
barrel	ˈbærəl	hordó
be engaged to	bɪz ɪnˈgeɪdʒd tə	jegyben jár vkivel
be in line with	bɪz ɪn laɪn wɪð	hozzáigazodik
be married to	bɪz ˈmæɪrɪd tə	vki házastársa
bell	bəl	csengő
best man	ˌbest ˈmæn	vőlegény tanúja
birthday	ˈbɜ:θdeɪ	születésnap
blow (blew, blown) up	bləʊ (blu:, bləʊn) ʌp	felrobbant
bonfire	ˈbɒnˌfaɪə	máglya
bouquet	bu:ˈkeɪ	virágcsokor
Boxing Day (GB)	bɒksɪŋ ,deɪ	karácsony másodnapja
bride	braɪd	menyasszony (az esküvőn)
bridegroom	ˈbraɪdˌɡru:m	vőlegény (az esküvőn)
bridesmaid	ˈbraɪdzˌmeɪd	menyasszony tanúja
bunch of flowers	bʌntʃ əv ˈflaʊəz	virágcsokor
buttonhole	ˈbʌtnˌhəʊl	gomblyuk
buttonhole (GB)	ˈbʌtnˌhəʊl	gomblyukba tűzött virág
Celtic	ˈkeltɪk	kelta
christening	ˈkrɪsnɪŋ	keresztelő
Christmas Day	ˌkrɪsməs ˈdeɪ	karácsony napja
Christmas Eve	ˌkrɪsməs ˈi:v	szenteste
church wedding	ˈtʃɜ:ʃtʃ ˌwedɪŋ	templomi esküvő
clash sticks	klæʃ stɪks	pálcákkal ütöget
commemorate	kəˈmeməˌreɪt	megemlékezik valamiről
constitution	kənˈstɪˌtju:ʃn	alkotmány
cranberry sauce	ˈkrænbəri saʊs	vörös áfonyaszósz
cross-belt	krosbɛlt	vállszíj
crucifixion	ˌkru:ʃɪˈfɪkʃn	keresztrefeszítés
Declaration of Independence	ˌdekləˈreɪʃn əv ˌɪndɪˈpendens	Függetlenségi Nyilatkozat
declaration of the Hungarian Republic	ˌdekləˈreɪʃn əv ðə ˌhʌŋˈɡeəriən rɪˈpʌblɪk	a Magyar Köztársaság kiáltása
decorate the Christmas tree	ˈdekeɪˌreɪt ðə ˈkrɪsməs ˌtriː	karácsonyfát díszít
discover	dɪˈskʌve	megtalál, felfedez
Easter	ˈi:stə	húsvét

Kérdések és válaszok angol nyelvből



Easter Monday	ˌi:stə ˈmʌndeɪ	húsvéthétfő
egg-hunting	eg ˌhʌntɪŋ	tojásvadászat
embassy	ˈembəsi	nagykövetség
ember	ˈembə	parázs
engagement	ɪnˈgeɪdʒmənt	eljegyzés
engagement ring	ɪnˈgeɪdʒmənt ˌrɪŋ	jegygyűrű
execute	ˈeksɪkjʊt	kivégez
Father Christmas/Santa Claus	ˌfɑ:ðə ˈkrɪsməs / ˈsæntə ˌklaʊz	télapó
father's day	ˈfɑ:ðəz ˌdeɪ	apák napja
federal government	ˌfedrəl ˈgʌvnmənt	szövetségi kormány
fiancé	fɪˈnseɪ	vőlegény
fiancée	fɪˈanseɪ	menyasszony
fireworks	faɪəˈwɜ:ks	tűzijáték
float	fləʊt	lebeg
founding	ˈfaʊndɪŋ	alapítás
funeral	ˈfju:nərəl	temetés
get (got, got) a present	get (gɒt, gɒt) ə ˈpreznt	ajándékot kap
get (got, got) married	get (gɒt, gɒt) ˌmænd	összeházasodik
ghost	ɡəʊst	szellem
gift basket	ˈɡɪft ˌbɑ:skɪt	ajándékkosár
gift-wrapping	ˈɡɪft ˌræpɪŋ	díszcsomagolás
give (gave, given) a party	ɡɪv (geɪv, ɡɪvn) ə ˈpɑ:ti	bulit rendez
give (gave, given) a present	ɡɪv (geɪv, ɡɪvn) ə ˈpreznt	ajándékot ad
Good Friday	ɡʊd ˈfraɪdeɪ	nagypéntek
graduating students' farewell ceremony	ˈɡrædʒʊeɪtɪŋ ˈstju:dnts ˌfeəˈwel ˈserəmənɪ /	ballagás
(GB)/valediction parade of graduating students (US)	ˌvæliˈdɪkʃn peˈreɪd ɒv ˈɡrædʒʊeɪtɪŋ ˈstju:dnts	
gunpowder	ˈɡʌnˌpaʊdə	puskapor
Guy Fawkes Night (GB)	ɡaɪ ˈfɔ:ks ˌnaɪt	lőporos összeesküvés napja
Halloween	ˌhæləʊˈi:n	mindenszentek előestéje
Hanukkah	ˈhɑ:neke	Hanuka
Happy birthday!	ˈhæpi ˈbɜ:θdeɪ	Boldog születésnapot!
hen party (GB)/bridal shower (US)	ˈhenˌpɑ:ti / ˌbraɪdl ˈʃaʊə	leánybúcsú
holly	ˈhɒli	magyal, krisztustövís
honeymoon	ˈhʌnɪmu:n	nászút
Independence Day/Fourth of July (US)	ˌɪndɪˈpendəns ˌdeɪ / ˌfɔ:θ əv dʒʊˈlaɪ	függetlenség napja
invite	ɪnˈvaɪt	meghív
ivy	ˈaɪvi	repekény, vadborostyán
Labour Day (US)	ˈleɪbə ˌdeɪ	munka ünnepe

Holidays and Celebrations



lace	leis	alkoholt hozzáad
lantern	'læntən	lámpás
Lent	lent	nagybőjt
marriage	'mæridʒ	házasság
marriage certificate	'mæridʒ sə'tifikət	házassági anyakönyvi kivonat
married	'mærid	házas
marry sy	'mæri	házasságot köt vkivel
Maundy Thursday	,mɔ:ndi 'θɜ:zdeɪ	nagycsütörtök
May Day	'meɪ ,deɪ	május elseje
maypole	'meɪ,pəʊl	májusfa
mince pie	,mɪns 'paɪ	cukrozott gyümölcs- töltött tészta
mistletoe	'mɪsl,təʊ	fagyöngy
mother's day	'mʌðəz ,deɪ	anyák napja
nameday	'neɪm ,deɪ	névnapi
name-giving ceremony	'neɪm ,gɪvɪŋ 'serəmənɪ	névadó
national anthem	,næʃnəl 'ænthəm	nemzeti himnusz
New Year's Eve	,nju: jɪəz 'i:v	Újév
parade	pə'reɪd	felvonultat
Passover	'pɑ:s,əʊvə	zsidó húsvét
poppy	'pɒpi	mákvirág
poppyseed roll	'pɒpi,sɪd rəʊl	mákos bejgli
procession	prə'seɪʃn	menet, felvonulás
proposal	prə'pəʊzl	leánykérés
propose	prə'pəʊz	megkéri a kezét
pumpkin pie	,pʌmpkɪn 'paɪ	tökpite
raise money	reɪz 'mʌni	pénzt gyűjt
registrar	,redʒɪ'stra:z	anyakönyvvezető
registry office	'redʒɪstrɪ ,ɒfɪs	anyakönyvi hivatal
resurrection	rezə'rekʃn	feltámadás
scare away	skeə ə'weɪ	elijeszt
school leavers' ball	'sku:l ,li:vəz bɔ:l	szalagavató
Seasons greetings!	'si:znz ,grɪ:tɪŋz	Boldog ünnepeket!
seize	sɪz	megragad
send (sent, sent) a card	send (sent, sent) ə kɑ:rd	lapot küld
serviceman	'sɜ:vɪsmən	katona
Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day)	ʃrəʊv 'tju:zdeɪ / 'pæneɪk ,deɪ	húshagyókedd
silver/golden/diamond wedding anniversary	,sɪlvə / ,gəʊldən / ,daɪəmənd 'wedɪŋ ,æni'vɜ:zəri	ezüst-/arany-/gyémánt- lakodalom
sing (sang, sung)	sɪŋ (sæŋ, sʌŋ) ,krɪsməs	karácsonyi dalokat énekel
Christmas carols	'kæərəlz	
sprinkling	'sprɪŋklɪŋ	locsolás, locsolkodás

Kérdések és válaszok angol nyelvből



stag night (GB)/bachelor party (US)	'stæg ,nait / 'bætʃələ ,pɑ:ti	legénybúcsú
starvation	stɑ:ˈveɪʃn	éhezés
surprise	səˈpraɪz	meglepetés
symbolise	ˈsɪmbəˌlaɪz	jelképez
Thanksgiving (US)	ˈθæŋksˌɡɪvɪŋ	hálaadás napja
the Easter bunny	ðə ˌi:stə ˈbʌni	húsvéti nyúl
the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49	ðə ˌhʌŋˈɡeəriən ˌrevəˈlu:ʃn ənd wɔ:ɹ əv ˌɪndɪˈpendəns əv ...	1848-49-es forradalom és szabadságharc
The King's/Queen's official birthday (GB)	ðə kɪŋz / kwɪ:nz əˈfi:ʃl ˈbɜ:θdeɪ	az uralkodó hivatalos születésnapja
train	treɪn	uszály
troop the colour(s)	ˈtru:p ðə ˈkʌlə(z)	zászlós díszszemlét tart
Trooping of the Colour (GB)	ˈtru:pɪŋ əv ðə ˈkʌlə	zászlós díszszemle Londonban az uralkodó hivatalos születésnapján
try sy	traɪ	bíróság elé állít
Valentine's Day	ˈvæləntaɪnz ˌdeɪ	Valentin-nap, Bálint napja
veil	veɪl	fátyol
wave handkerchiefs	weyv ˈhæŋkətʃɪfs	zsebkendőt lenget
wedding	ˈwedɪŋ	esküvő
wedding anniversary	ˈwedɪŋ ænɪˌvɜ:səri	házassági évforduló
wedding ceremony	ˈwedɪŋ ˌserəməni	esküvői szertartás
wedding reception	ˈwedɪŋ rɪˈsepʃn	lakodalom
Whit Monday	ˈwɪt ˌmaʊndeɪ	pünkösdhétfő
Whitsun	ˈwɪtsn	pünkösd
witch	wɪtʃ	boszorkány
witness	ˈwɪtnəs	tanú