

5. a) Make a list of family traditions in Belarus. Then look at the list below and see how many ideas are the same. Can you add more traditions to the list?

1. Celebrating birthdays; 2. New Year celebrations; 3. wedding ceremonies; 4. Christmas dinner; 5. Kalyady; 6. family meals and recipes; 7. Radunitsa; 8. Easter breakfast; 9. baby christening; 10. housewarming parties; 11. a family get-together; 12. bed time traditions; 13. treating the elderly with respect.

b) Choose some Belarusian family traditions you would like to speak about. Prepare to speak about these traditions. Use the questions in ex. 3b for help. Take notes if necessary.

6. Work in pairs.

Student A: You are British. Ask your Belarusian friend about family traditions in his / her country. Tell him about some of the British family traditions.

Student B: Ask your British friend about family traditions in his / her country. Tell him / her about some of the Belarusian family traditions.

LESSON 7. Worth trying

Communicative area: speaking about family traditions and special events

1. a) Read the joke below. Did you get the humour?

My family has no traditions. We just do the same thing, over and over again, each year.

b) Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

1. As far as my family is concerned, the joke is ..., because ...
2. Typical family traditions in my country ...
3. Having traditions ...

2. a) In the Live Journal Familyguy has asked other bloggers to share their family traditions. Read the replies below. Do the bloggers sound happy to share their traditions? Why?



ZebraZoya: My mum would always grease our nose with butter on our birthday morning, so we could slide into the next year. (Does anyone else have this crazy tradition? I think it's Irish. We kids didn't enjoy it much.)

Ivan: When someone in your family gets a new job, a promotion, or a raise, create a tradition that they take **you** out for dinner. It doesn't have to be a fancy or expensive dinner – you can go for pizza or wraps. We've been doing it for years!

Tabitha: What a great post! My husband and I try to regularly visit areas in the city (Washington DC) where we live. Even though we're residents, we go check out some new spot at least once a week. It's fun to act as a tourist and discover something new. We definitely plan on continuing this tradition as our family gets bigger, no matter where we live!

RoaldfromBoston: We have a couple of traditions that we do. Having a get-together and reading books. Every Thursday night is family reading night. Friday night is pizza and a movie. We also get together once a month at one of our extended family's homes for family dinner. Everyone in the family gets a turn at their home.

Tinylittle: We have a fun tradition in our family. When someone has a birthday or special occasion, they get a special red plate. A little weird, but everyone loves that red plate!

Benjamin: We have not done it in a while, but my family likes to have music appreciation nights. Each person gets to pick one song from a playlist that they like to play for the whole family to listen to. We would then talk about what we like about it and it usually ends up in everyone dancing. I plan carrying on this tradition with my own kids once they are old enough.

Grandson: I love all the ideas on this page. One thing that my family does every Christmas is a home-made Christmas Movie. We try to take all the good and bad memories of the year and re-enact them in a funny light-hearted way. Everyone in the family is involved from Grandma and Grandpa to the youngest member. We watch the movie right before we open our gifts. It's the best way to start the night out.

Jai Joshi: Many of my family traditions are faith based but we have some great ones. One is that we have a day in summer, called Raksha Bandan, that is just for siblings. Sisters tie protection bands around their brother's wrist and feed him sweets, and he gives them presents, vowing to care for and protect them always. It renews the ties between them and ensures that even when they are far away, they think of each other.

Smonespecial: My family does a big family vacation for a week every two years. This started with my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Now many of my cousins are married and have kids, so our vacation continues to get bigger and bigger. A lot of people are shocked that our vacation is for an entire week, but it works well. Gives us time to reconnect... and reminds us why we don't live closer together. =)

b) Find the word that means:

ZebraZoya: 1. to apply cooking fat;

Ivan: 2. change of a job position with a higher salary range;
3. higher salary;

Tabitha: 4. people that live in the area; 5. place;

Roald from Boston: 6. an informal gathering;

Tiny little: 7. strange;

Benjamin: 8. continuing;

Grandson: 9. to act something out;

Jai Joshi: 10. religion; 11. promising;

Smone special: 12. holidays (*Am. E.*).

c) Work in pairs. Which story are these objects from? What do they mean?



1



2



3



4



5



6

d) Read the stories again. Who

1. looks back at significant year's events? 2. isn't really fond of the tradition? 3. has a week-long family gathering? 4. has had their tradition for quite a long time? 5. observes a religious ritual? 6. has a special tradition for the extended family? 7. has a tradition connected with food? 8. has weekly traditions? 9. is not planning to give up the tradition? 10. has an unusual birthday tradition?

e) Look through the comments again. Work in pairs. Which of the traditions are: easy to adopt, very unique, fun to try at least once, amusing, quite common? Which traditions are worth trying to adopt? Why? Which ones would your family turn down? Why?

3. a) Prepare to talk about one of your family traditions. Invent one more family tradition that is not followed in your family.

- b) Walk around the class. Tell your classmates about both traditions. Let them guess which one is true. Then change roles.
- c) Report on the most unusual tradition or special event you've heard from your classmates.
4. Tell your partner about your family traditions or special events. Do you have anything in common with your partner?

LESSON 8. Grandmother's house

Communicative area: speaking about childhood memories

1. a) Work in pairs. What does the picture below show?



- b) Put the words below into 5 groups according to the picture above.

Watch, illusion, leather, telescope, goose bumps, smell, microphone, cold, eavesdrop, moist, noise, texture, fingertips, yummy, fluffy, sticky, stink, aroma, spiky, frost, attractive, sour, delicious, tasteless, humid, blizzard, lightening, flavour, spicy, shortsighted, shiny, hearing aid, perfume, visual, view, observe, binoculars, microscope, linen, pattern, sweet, silhouette, drizzle.