

World English 2: Unit 12

Instructions: Read. Then respond to the prompts. Use reasons and examples from the text to support your answers.

Family Traditions

Shantelle Davis is a nine-year-old girl in New York. On a cold night in December, her family is standing around the kitchen table while she lights a candle. The table is decorated with baskets of fruit and vegetables.

“This candle represents *umoya*, an African word that means ‘being together,’” Shantelle says. “That’s the most important thing for a family.”

Millions of African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa every year from December 26 until January 1. It’s a time when they get together with their families to think about their history and their ancestors in Africa.

Kwanzaa was started in 1966 by an American professor named Maulana Karenga. Maulana wanted a holiday for African Americans to honor their culture and traditions, so he used words and customs from Africa to create a new celebration. He took the name *Kwanzaa* from the words for “first fruits” in Swahili—an African language. At first, only a few families had celebrations. Now, there are Kwanzaa events in schools and public places, and Kwanzaa has even spread to other countries, like Canada and Jamaica.

The main symbol of Kwanzaa is a candleholder with seven candles, one for each of the principles of Kwanzaa. Each night, a family member lights one of the candles and talks about the idea it represents: being together, being yourself, helping each other, sharing, having a goal, creating, and believing. The candles are red, black, and green, the colors of Kwanzaa. The parents also pour drinks to honor family members who have died. On the last night of Kwanzaa, there is a big dinner with African food, and children receive small presents.

1. Description of the holiday

2. Meaning of word *Kwanzaa*

3. The year when Kwanzaa started

4. The person who started Kwanzaa

Instructions: Track 25 | *Listen to the interview. Complete each sentence with one or two words that you hear.*

5. The man prefers _____ to his birthday.
6. The woman prefers a _____ to a large crowd.
7. The man prefers _____ to Independence Day.
8. The woman thinks holidays with costumes are _____ than holidays without them.

Instructions: *Complete each sentence with a word from the list. You can use words more than once. You do not need to use all of the words.*

annual
celebrate
costumes
crowds
holiday
participate
popular
take place
well-known

9. Songkran—Thai New Year—is a very special _____ in Thailand.
10. It is a(n) _____ event. It happens every year between April 12th and April 16th.
11. People in Thailand _____ it in an interesting way.
12. It is famous for its water fights during the _____.
13. Many water fights _____ all around in Thai cities.

Instructions: *Write a celebration expression for each situation. You can use thanks, good luck, well done, happy ... , and congratulations in addition to your own words.*

Example: Your friend invited you to their house for dinner.

Thanks for having me.

14. Your friend got a new job.

15. Your sister is taking her driving test today.

16. It's your mom and dad's anniversary.

Instructions: *Read the sentences. Then write a correct sentence using (not) as ... as and the adjective in parentheses.*

17. Jarin is eight, and James is four. (old)
James _____.

18. Erin wakes up at 6:00 a.m. Sarah gets up at 6:45 a.m. (early)
Sarah _____.

19. *Friends* was a very popular TV show. I think that *Seinfeld* was more popular. (popular)
I think that *Friends* _____.

20. Getting flowers is romantic. Going on a date is romantic, too. (romantic)
Getting flowers _____.

21. The author JK Rowling is very well-known. Not as many people know who Barbara Kingsolver is. (well-known)
Barbara Kingsolver is _____.

Instructions: *Put the words in order to make sentences.*

22. He eat right rather not now would

23. I would closer to rather sit the front

24. She watch rather not violent movies would

Instructions: *Complete the tasks.*

25. In the United States, some companies only give two weeks paid vacation time. Write an opinion paragraph (50–75 words) to state and support how many weeks of vacation you think companies should be required to give?

- Begin with a strong topic sentence that clearly states your point of view.
- Support your opinion by giving good, logical reasons for it.
- End with a brief conclusion related to the opinion and reasons you gave.

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Answer Section

1. ANS:
(Answers will vary. Award point if reasons/examples from the text support the response.)
Kwanzaa is a holiday for African Americans to celebrate their culture and traditions.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Reading

2. ANS:
(Answers will vary. Award point if reasons/examples from the text support the response.)
Kwanzaa means “first fruits” in Swahili, an African language.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Reading

3. ANS:
(Answers will vary. Award point if reasons/examples from the text support the response.)
Kwanzaa was started in 1966.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Reading

4. ANS:
(Answers will vary. Award point if reasons/examples from the text support the response.)
Maulana Karenga started Kwanzaa.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Reading

5. ANS: New Year's

PTS: 1 OBJ: Listening MSC: WE3e_L2_EV_Audio_Track_25.mp3

6. ANS: small group

PTS: 1 OBJ: Listening MSC: WE3e_L2_EV_Audio_Track_25.mp3

7. ANS: Christmas

PTS: 1 OBJ: Listening MSC: WE3e_L2_EV_Audio_Track_25.mp3

8. ANS: more interesting

PTS: 1 OBJ: Listening MSC: WE3e_L2_EV_Audio_Track_25.mp3

9. ANS: holiday

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

10. ANS: annual

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

11. ANS: celebrate

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

12. ANS: holiday

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

13. ANS: take place

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

14. ANS:

(Answers will vary. Award point if given words/phrases are used in addition to students' own words.)
Congratulations on your new job!

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

15. ANS:

(Answers will vary. Award point if given words/phrases are used in addition to students' own words.)
Good luck with your driving test.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

16. ANS:

(Answers will vary. Award point if given words/phrases are used in addition to students' own words.)
Happy anniversary, mom and dad!

PTS: 1 OBJ: Vocabulary

17. ANS: is not as old as Jarin

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Comparisons with as ... as

18. ANS: doesn't get up as early as Erin

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Comparisons with as ... as

19. ANS: wasn't as popular as *Seinfeld*

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Comparisons with as ... as

20. ANS: is as romantic as going on a date

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Comparisons with as ... as

21. ANS: not as well-known as J.K Rowling

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Comparisons with as ... as

22. ANS:

He would rather not eat right now.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Would rather

23. ANS:

I would rather sit closer to the front.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Would rather

24. ANS:

She would rather not watch violent movies.

PTS: 1 OBJ: Grammar TOP: Would rather

25. ANS:

Answers will vary.

PTS: 1

OBJ: Writing