



**Traditions make a  
nation special**

**holidays and celebrations**

**Russians really love holidays. We usually celebrate them with a lot of food, presents and in big companies of relatives and friends.**

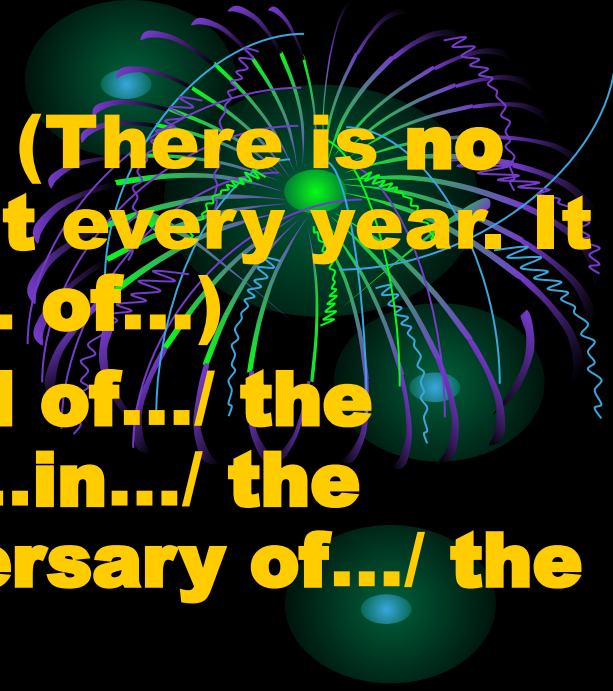
**There are three types of holidays in Russia.**

**They are family holidays, state (public, official) holidays and religious (church) holidays.**

**Family holidays include birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, house-warming parties, new baby parties and others. Some pagan holidays are popular with Russians too.**

<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>New Year</b>
<b>January 7</b>	<b>Russian Orthodox Christmas</b>
<b>January 13 Eve</b>	<b>Russian Old New Year</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>The Motherland Defender's Day</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>
<b>April, May</b>	<b>Easter (floating date): in 2011 - April 24; in 2012 - April 15; in 2013 -May 5</b>
<b>May 1, 2</b>	<b>Labour Day</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Victory Day</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Russia Day or Independence Day</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Day of People's Unity</b>
<b>February , March</b>	<b>Shrovetide or Pancake Day (floating date): in 2011 - March 7; in 2012 - February 26; in 2013 – March17</b>
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Halloween</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>St. Valentine's Day</b>




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- ... is a ... holiday.
  - We celebrate it on the ... of ... (There is no exact date for ..., it is different every year. It is usually the last ( the first)... of...)
  - ... celebrates ( marks) the end of.../ the beginning of.../ the victory of...in.../ the Independence of.../ the anniversary of.../ the new Constitution.
  - ... is devoted to soldiers and officers / the Soviet Army / women. ( We celebrate it in the honour of ...)
  - The day makes us think of...
  - ... has deep roots.
  - ... was started by / in / as...( was connected with / is associated with / used to be celebrated as...



- **Concerts / marches / parades / services in church / processions of veterans / demonstrations are held ...**
- **It takes time to make all the arrangements but it is worth many efforts. ( give one's house a thorough cleaning, to decorate ... with ..., make fancy costumes, write and send post cards )**
- **People are involved in various activities.**
- **They congratulate ... on... / give presents to... / lay flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**
- **They go out into the streets**  
**participate /take part in all kinds of**  
**outdo**  
**activities( in parades, shows,**  
**demonstrations,**  
**fancy balls)**  
**go to church and stay for service**



- come to one's parents / gather / get together  
go visiting each other / invite guests  
cook a special dinner / make pancakes  
(paskhas, Easter cakes, dye or paint  
eggs)  
have parties, dance , have a carnival  
set off fire-crackers ( The whole sky lights  
up  
with fire-works at midnight.)  
knock on people's door, sing carols, collect  
gifts  
burn a scarecrow
- People enjoy themselves / have fun / stay up late /  
stay up until midnight / sit at the table / have a  
great chat.
- The highlight of the festival is...

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- 1. Can people do without celebrations?**
  - 2. What is your favourite old ( new) holiday?**
  - 3. Do you feel sorry about the holidays that disappeared?**
  - 4. What new holidays would you like to establish?**
  - 5. Is choosing gifts an easy matter?**

**(For me choosing a present depends on what occasion it is / how close we are / how much money I have.**

**If..... it is supposed to be expensive / it could be hand-made.**

**It is the spirit behind the gift that matters most but not the gift itself.)**

# What point of view do you have on celebrations?

- **+ Celebrating is my joy!**
- **I like the perfect / special atmosphere behind celebrations.**
- **I just enjoy the spirit of a holiday!**
- **I celebrate any holiday irrespective of its religious background.**
- **For me a holiday is a good opportunity to get together with my nearest and dearest / friends.**





# What point of view do you have on celebrations?

- **I don't like any celebration especially. It's not important for me.**
- **For me any holiday is just a day-off.**
- **I don't understand the use of celebrating a holiday only because it's a tradition!**
- **We can choose more interesting activities instead of sitting at the table and discussing boring family problems.**
- **There's only one celebration that matters, it's...**





Happy New Year!



