

Topic 15: Family and Cultural Traditions

Background:

Traditions are an important part of our everyday life. Every culture, religion, and family has unique traditions. Traditions include beliefs, activities, and common practices. A common American tradition is to send birth announcements when a baby is born. A common Christian tradition is to go to church every Sunday. An example of a family tradition is having a special meal or activity for a family member's birthday.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have special traditions you celebrate for birthdays or anniversaries in your family? Please explain.
2. Do you continue to celebrate those traditions while here in the U.S.?
3. Describe one tradition that is very common in your home culture.
4. Have you observed any traditions in America that are not common in your home culture? If so, please explain your answer.
5. Are there traditions your grandparents practiced that you no longer practice? Please explain.
6. Traditionally, who is the head of the household in your home country? Has this changed in recent years?
7. Are there traditional foods from your home country that you cannot get in the U.S.? Please explain.
8. Are there traditional dresses or costumes that are worn in your home country? If so, please describe one or more of them.
9. Do you like to participate in events from different cultures? If you have participated in another culture's tradition, please tell us about it.
10. Do you have any family heirlooms? If so, please describe them.

Vocabulary:

Tradition, customs, generation, head of the household, heirloom