

Dictation 1 - Bonfire Night

Though many children in Great Britain look forward to November 5th (Bonfire Night) very few know exactly what they're celebrating.

Guy Fawkes was a Roman Catholic who, in 1605, joined a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament while King James and his ministers were inside. He was caught red-handed, tried and brutally executed the following January.

Every year people celebrate the failure of the so-called 'gunpowder plot' by setting off fireworks and lighting bonfires with a guy on top; a guy is an effigy of Guy Fawkes.

Dictation 2 - English Folklore

English folklore has developed in England over a number of centuries. Some English legends can be traced back to their roots, even from before the Roman invasion of Britain, while the origin of others is uncertain or disputed.

England abounds with folklore, there are a number of mythical folk heroes and legends, many of which have their roots in historical fact: King Arthur and Robin Hood for example. Then there are more modern urban myths and monsters such as the Loch Ness Monster and the Beast of Bodmin Moor.

Dictation 3 - Football

The FIFA World Cup is the most watched football event in the world. The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) organises the World Cup every 4 (four) years.

32 (Thirty-two) teams start the tournament and play for 4 (four) weeks, trying to qualify for the different stages: The 1st (first) round, the 2nd (second) round or knockout stage, followed by the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, and on to the final match between the 2 (two) remaining teams.

Dictation 4 - London

London is the capital of England and the United Kingdom. It was founded 2,000 years ago by the Romans. The city has been Western Europe's largest city for centuries: As early as 1700 more than 575,000 people lived in London.

Today, London has a population of over 8 million people, it is also one of the most visited cities in the world, because of the many famous attractions there, such as Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.

Dictation 5 - The Maasai

The Maasai are an east African nomadic people. They are known as warriors who possess great strength and a strong sense of independence. They live in the countries of Kenya and Tanzania, in an area known as Maasailand.

The region contains some of the great natural wonders of the world, including Mount Kilimanjaro.

The Maasai date to 500 BCE (Before Common Era), when they lived along the Nile River in the southern Sudan. Over time they migrated southward to the area now known as Tanzania.

Through the mid -1800s the Maasai were among the most powerful groups in Africa, ruling over 10 million acres of land. Today the Maasai number approximately 250,000.

Dictation 6 - New Year's Resolutions

Another year has passed, and not only have we failed to lose weight, but we haven't taken up all those hobbies we said we would.

At the end of each year, we get a burst of clarity, all of a sudden we can see what needs fixing, both in our business and personal lives. Then, we choose the perfect day to begin - January 1; a holiday for most of us, and a day that might include a late start due to a late night. What a lousy day to begin a new routine.

Dictation 7 - The Wedding Feast - Part 1

A father one day asked his two daughters, "What is the sweetest thing in the world?"

"Sugar," said the older girl.

"Salt," said his youngest daughter.

Her father thought she was making fun of him, but she wouldn't change her mind. He was so angry that he threw her out of the house, saying, "As you think that salt is sweeter than sugar you had better find another home where the cooking is more to your taste."

It was a beautiful summer night, and as the pretty girl sat crying in the forest around her father's house a young prince, who was lost, heard her voice and came to ask her the way. He asked her why

she was crying and she told him. Then, struck by her beauty and wisdom, he fell in love with her, and took her home to his beautiful palace and married her.

Dictation 8 - The Wedding Feast – Part 2

The bride invited her father to the wedding feast, without telling him that she was his daughter. All the dishes were prepared without salt, and the guests began to murmur.

"Ah," said the bride's father "salt is truly the sweetest thing in the world! But when my daughter said so I threw her out of my house. If only I could see her again and tell her how sorry I am!"

Drawing the bridal veil from her face, the happy girl went up to her father and kissed him. And properly salted dishes of fish, flesh, and fowl were then brought in, and all the guests were very happy.

Dictation 9 - Xmas

It's (It is) certainly nice to see lots of presents under the tree on Christmas morning, but it does seem extremely wasteful. Many presents end up being unwanted.

Here are some interesting ideas for getting rid of those unwanted gifts:

Give one away whenever you need to give a gift to someone, e.g. when the gift doesn't have to be very personal. Remember to make a note stating who gave the item to you in the first place so that you don't make the mistake of giving it back to them.

Give unwanted presents to a local charity store, the charity will be happy to have them.

Hold a 'bad gift swap' party the week after Christmas with all your friends...each person brings the gift they hated the most and everyone swaps.

Visit an old people's home or children's home. Bag up the presents and bring a bit of happiness to someone else.

If none of the above suggestions appeal to you why not auction any unwanted items on EBay!