



Special Occasions

Task 1: How Birthdays Started

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening for the GESE 5.

You are going to hear a talk about **how birthdays started**. You will hear the talk twice. As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. I will ask you six questions on some facts about **how birthdays started**. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Birthday parties are often filled with balloons, birthday hats, cupcakes, ice-cream, birthday cake with candles and birthday presents! But have you ever thought about how when we started celebrating birthdays? The Egyptians started birthdays, when the pharaoh's celebrated their coronation. However, the Greeks were the ones that started to put candles on moon-shaped cakes. They did this to celebrate and give tribute to their goddess Artemis. The Romans were the first to celebrate birthdays for the common men, but not women. Women didn't celebrate until the 12th century. When a roman man celebrated his fiftieth birthday, a special cake was made out of wheat flour, olive oil, honey and grated cheese. Germany is the country that first had birthdays, most similar to today's birthdays. They celebrated for children, with cakes and candles, where they would put the amount of candles of the age of the child, and add an extra candle for hope. They would blow out the candles and make a wish.

Now I will ask you some questions. You only need to answer in a few words.

Now let's look at the questions again, but with the possible answers.

This is the end of the listening task.

Questions & Answers:

1	What are some things that we can find at birthday parties?	balloons / birthday hats / cupcakes /, ice-cream / birthday cake / candles / birthday presents
2	Who started birthday celebrations?	The Egyptians
3	What shape were the cakes that the Greeks made?	moon / like a moon / moon-shaped
4	Why did the Greeks put candles on the cakes?	To celebrate / Give tribute (to the goddess Artemis)
5	Who were birthdays celebrated for in Rome?	men (/ not women)



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6	What are some of the ingredients in a special cake made for somebody turning 50 in Rome?	wheat flour / olive oil / honey / (grated) cheese
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