

Special Occasions

Task 1: Wedding Traditions

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening for the GESE 5.

You are going to hear a talk about **wedding traditions**. 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 **wedding traditions**. Are you ready?

Audio Script

There are all types of **wedding traditions** in the world and it is really amazing how the same type of **celebration** can be **celebrated** in different ways within **different cultures**. For example, in India instead of **wearing jewelry**, the bride will spend hours being **intricately** painted with henna. Another country that has an **interesting** wedding tradition is Norway. They create **iced almond ringed cakes** that go on top of each other, making a **cone shape**. In the middle of this **cone cake** there is a surprise of a **bottle of champagne** or **wine**. Then, those that get married in Cuba have the tradition that all those men that want to **dance with the bride** must pin money on her dress. In this way, the **bride and groom** are able to **pay for** their **wedding** and **honeymoon**. Now, in Germany a **couple's strength** is tested by giving them a log to saw in half. This way they show how they will **work together** when **obstacles** happen in their life as a **married couple**. Well, in the Philippines, it is more **symbolic**. The bride and groom release a **male and female dove** into the air to **symbolise peace** and their **harmonious life together**. In Romania, the bride might get **kidnapped** from her **friends and family**. In order to get the bride back, the groom will have to **pay for her ransom**. This might be by **buying a round of drinks** for everybody or **displaying romantic gestures**. One thing is sure to say, no matter where the wedding happens, it is always a **special occasion** with **interesting traditions**.

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 happens to the bride in India?	(intricately) painted with henna
2	What is placed in the middle of the wedding cake in Norway?	A bottle of champagne/wine
3	In Cuba, what do men put on the bride's dress after dancing?	Money
4	In Germany, what is the bride and groom tested for?	Their strength (as a couple)

5	What does a married couple release in the air, in the Philippines?	two doves / a male and female dove
6	Who kidnaps the bride in Romania?	Friends and family

Marks: +_ / +6

Note: The questions are concentrated so that the student learns how to understand form questions with “What was / is / can...?” and “When was / did...?” You must remind the student that “do” is an auxiliary verb at times and will at times not be able to translate into their language. The auxiliary verb is also known as a helping verb and this term may make the student understand better that the helping verb is helping the verb that comes after be grammatically correct in English.

Translations don’t always translate easily. This is when you must guide a student in the understanding of the translation. For example, if your student is Spanish, observe how the questions of “When did...?” changes when translated.

Question 1: What happens...? = ¿Qué ocurre...?

Question 2: When is...? = ¿Qué es...?

Question 3: In Cuba, what do...? = ¿En cuba, qué...?

Question 4: In Germany, what is...? = ¿En alemania, qué es...?

Question 5: What does...? = ¿Qué ...?

Question 6: Who ...? = ¿Quien ...?

You can also help the student understand question structures here. Some students understand structures better and others are more visual. So, it could be a good idea to colour code the different parts of grammar.

For example:

Red → Nouns

Green → Verbs

Blue → Adjectives

Orange → Adverbs

Purple → Prepositions / Articles

Pink → Pronouns

Yellow → Conjunctions

Brown → Interjections

Turquoise → Punctuation marks



Question 1:

What happens to the bride in India ?
Interjections + auxiliary verb + pronoun + article + noun + pronoun + noun ?

→ Have students write a list of specific vocabulary and phrases from listening Look at audio script for highlighted specific vocabulary and phrases.

→ Have them write their own questions about New Years that later can be used in a speaking activity with another classmate.