

# An email about a celebration

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When we write an email to people we know about a celebration:

- we use informal language. (see p. 48)
- we usually write where and when the celebration takes place.
- what people do on this day.
- what we are doing at the moment
- How we feel.

## Rubric analysis

- 1 Read the task. Use the underline words to answer the questions.

Imagine you are at a celebration in your country. Write an email to your English-speaking friend. In your email write:

- where you are
- name of celebration and date
- how people celebrate it
- what you are doing now
- your feelings.

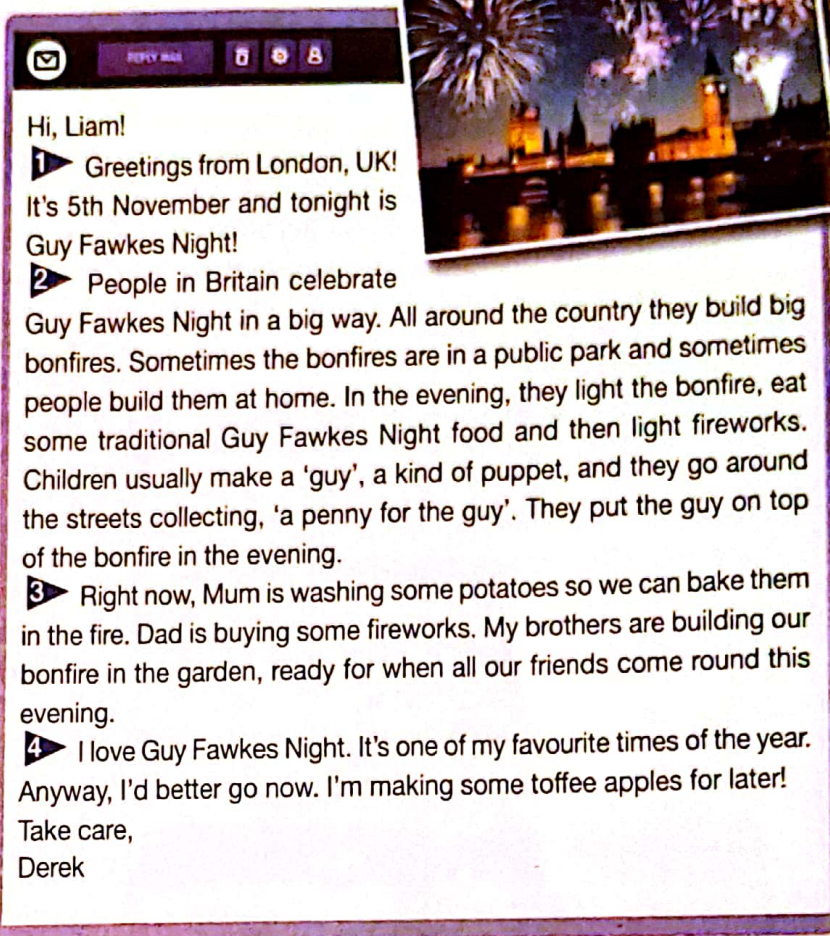
Write your email (100-120 words).

- 1 What are you going to write about?
- 2 What kind of text are you going to write?
- 3 Who are you going to write to?
- 4 How many words are you going to write?

## Model analysis

- 2 Read the model. Write the paragraph number.

- A  what people are doing now
- B  opening remarks, name, place and date of the celebration
- C  feelings, closing remarks
- D  what people do on this day



Hi, Liam!

1 Greetings from London, UK! It's 5th November and tonight is Guy Fawkes Night!

2 People in Britain celebrate Guy Fawkes Night in a big way. All around the country they build big bonfires. Sometimes the bonfires are in a public park and sometimes people build them at home. In the evening, they light the bonfire, eat some traditional Guy Fawkes Night food and then light fireworks. Children usually make a 'guy', a kind of puppet, and they go around the streets collecting, 'a penny for the guy'. They put the guy on top of the bonfire in the evening.

3 Right now, Mum is washing some potatoes so we can bake them in the fire. Dad is buying some fireworks. My brothers are building our bonfire in the garden, ready for when all our friends come round this evening.

4 I love Guy Fawkes Night. It's one of my favourite times of the year. Anyway, I'd better go now. I'm making some toffee apples for later!

Take care,  
Derek

- 3 Read the email extracts and complete them with the missing words.

A  dancing • playing • wearing

I'm having a wonderful time. People are 1) \_\_\_\_\_ colourful costumes and they are 2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets. Loud music is 3) \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere. I can't believe I'm here! Nottingham Carnival is great.

B  exchanging • preparing • singing • snowing

It's Christmas time. It's 4) \_\_\_\_\_ outside, but it's lovely and warm in the house. We're 5) \_\_\_\_\_ presents and Dad is also 6) \_\_\_\_\_ the turkey. On TV, some children are 7) \_\_\_\_\_ carols. Christmas is the best time of the year!

C  decorating • making • putting

Mum's 8) \_\_\_\_\_ the house with streamers and banners. Dad's 9) \_\_\_\_\_ the cake. I'm 10) \_\_\_\_\_ on my party dress. I can't wait for my friends to arrive. I can't believe I'm turning thirteen today!



**Note:****Stative verbs**

We do not normally use the verbs love, hate, like, dislike, believe, think in the present continuous. I love Capri. (NOT: I'm loving Capri.)

- 4** Look at the email extracts. Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

• bake • celebrate • decorate (x2)

**A** INBOX OUTBOX CONTACTS LOG OUT

... On 4th July, Americans 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Day. They 2) \_\_\_\_\_ their houses with red, white and blue, the colours of the American flag. Right now, my cousins 3) \_\_\_\_\_ the yard with colourful paper streamers and my sister 4) \_\_\_\_\_ sugar cookies.

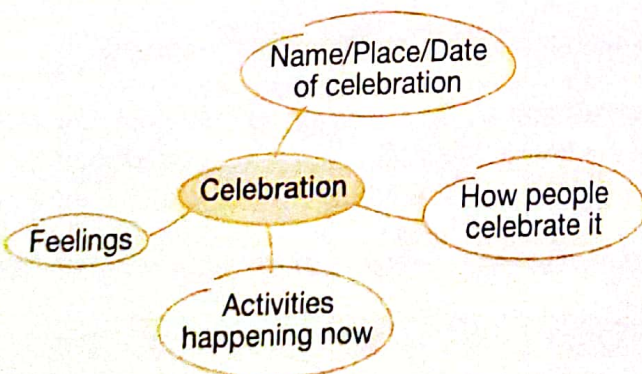
• watch • love • stand • think

**B** INBOX OUTBOX CONTACTS LOG OUT

... At the moment, I 1) \_\_\_\_\_ outside Macy's and I 2) \_\_\_\_\_ this huge parade! I 3) \_\_\_\_\_ it's the biggest parade in the world! I just 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving in New York!

**Your turn**

- 5** a) *Brainstorming:* Copy the spidergram into your notebook. Complete it with information about a celebration in your country.



- b) *Task:* Use the rubric in Ex. 1 to write an email about a celebration in your country. Use your ideas from Ex. 5a and phrases from the Useful Language box. Follow the plan.

**Useful Language****Opening remarks**

Hope you're OK. How are you doing? Hi/Greetings from ... . Thanks for your email. Sorry for not writing sooner. Hi! How are you?

**Reason for writing**

It's a very special day today. I can't wait to tell you about ... . I'm having a great time here. It's ... .

**Name/Date of festival**

- People celebrate ... .
- On ... (date), people celebrate ... .

**Activities**

- People dress up as ... .
- In the morning/afternoon/evening everyone ... .
- They eat ... (delicious meal, tasty cake).
- Then, people go to a party/parade/restaurant, etc.
- Right now, I'm (*making/watching*, etc).
- At the moment my family/friends and I are ... .

**Feelings**

- It's a(n) interesting/funny/amazing, etc celebration.
- It's so much fun!/I'm having a great time!

**Closing remarks**

Email me soon./Write soon./I'd better get going./  
Bye for now./I must go now./Got to go now.

**Plan**

- Greeting* + (your friend's first name),  
(Para 1) opening remarks, name, place and date of celebration  
(Para 2) how people celebrate it  
(Para 3) what you are doing now  
(Para 4) closing remarks, feelings  
*Sign off,*  
(your first name)

**Checklist**

When you finish your email, check the following:

- opening and closing remarks
- capital letters, punctuation and linkers
- word order
- number of words
- spelling and grammar