

● What are national / public / bank holidays?

A public / national holiday is a non-working day / day off during the year. Public holidays are often special days to observe / celebrate / commemorate a significant person or historical / religious event. On these days most people have a paid day off work and schools / banks / shops are closed. Public holidays are called bank holidays in the United Kingdom / Canada.

● What national holidays are celebrated in the Czech Republic?

In the Czech Republic we celebrate / observe:

- **January 1st:** New Year's Day and the restoration of the independent Czech state
- **March or April:** Easter
- **May 1st:** Labour Day, which celebrates working people
- **May 8th:** Liberation Day, which celebrates the end of the Second World War in 1945
- **July 5th:** Saints Cyril and Methodius' Day; they brought Christianity to Great Moravia
- **July 6th:** Jan Hus Day; he was a Czech church reformer who was burnt at the stake for his beliefs
- **September 28th:** St Wenceslas' Day; he is patron saint of the Czech Republic
- **October 28th:** the foundation / establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918
- **November 17th:** Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day, which remembers / commemorates the student demonstrations / protests against the Nazi regime in 1939 and protests in 1989 that led to the fall of communism
- **December 24th, 25th and 26th:** Christmas

● What is your favourite holiday and why? How do you celebrate it?

I really like / love Christmas / Easter because the whole / entire family comes / gets together. At Christmas we bake biscuits (*BrE*) / cookies (*AmE*) and eat a feast / huge meal / family dinner / special dinner of fried carp and potato salad. We decorate a tree with glass / straw ornaments and exchange / give each other gifts / presents. At Easter we decorate eggs and the boys go around and whip girls with willow sticks and get eggs in return / we don't observe any traditions and just enjoy the time off. New Year's Eve is really great because there are a lot of parties / there are firework displays.

● What are some American holidays?

The most popular holidays in the US are Independence Day on July 4th / Halloween on October 31st / Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November / Christmas on December 25th. In America they also celebrate St Patrick's Day (March 17th) by drinking

a lot of green beer / Valentine's Day (February 14th) to celebrate love / Mother's Day / Father's Day to honour parents / Labor Day to show respect for workers / Memorial Day to remember those killed in battle / war. Celebrations usually include barbecues / parades / firework displays / sporting events.

● What are some British holidays?

Boxing Day is the day after Christmas (December 26th) and is a bank holiday. Most people usually relax / spend time with families / friends / eat Christmas leftovers / watch sport / go shopping. Good Friday is a Christian holiday, remembering Jesus' death on the cross / crucifixion. Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night) is observed / celebrated / remembered on November 5th and commemorates the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Traditionally people put on firework displays / light bonfires.

● What are some holidays in other English speaking countries?

In Australia, they celebrate Australia Day on January 26th, which commemorates the founding / establishment of the first colony in Australia by the British. People go to the beach / have a barbecue / watch fireworks. Anzac Day on April 25th is a serious day, which remembers the soldiers who have died in battles / wars. In Canada, they celebrate Canada Day on July 1st with various events like parades / carnivals. Thanksgiving isn't just an American holiday; on October 12th Canada celebrates "Turkey Day", too.

● Do families keep to / carry on / follow traditions in your country? Do you think that keeping traditions is important?

I think traditions are disappearing here because young people don't care about traditions any more / there is too much commercialization of holidays / people are too busy / times are changing. I think traditions are still kept / followed, especially in the countryside because people have closer relationships there. I think it is important to respect / remember / follow traditions because they are part of our culture / they unite us and should be passed down / handed down to the next generation / our children.

● What other special occasions / events are important to you? How do you celebrate them?

I think birthdays / name days / graduations / anniversaries / weddings are very special occasions / big events. My friends and I / In my family we have cake and ice cream / a party / play games / go dancing / celebrate in a pub. For weddings, some people have a religious ceremony in a church, others have a civil ceremony / get married in a town hall.

Bridge

