

Tourist information: Culture and People- festivals and traditions in English-speaking countries

Now that you are ready to give tourists information about how to celebrate some traditions and festivals in our country, you must also be familiar with some British customs and traditions to establish a comparison between both countries.

Customs and traditions in the UK.

Britain is full of culture and traditions which have been around for hundreds of years and are famous all over the world. When people think of Britain they often think of people drinking tea, eating fish and chips and wearing bowler hats, but there is more to Britain than just those things.

The beginning of the year for the British is the time to make New Year resolutions, that is to say a 🍌 goal that people set out to accomplish in the coming year. People welcome in the New Year on the night before which is called 🍌 New Year's Eve. In Scotland, people celebrate with a lively festival called Hogmanay. All over Britain there are parties, fireworks, singing and dancing, to ring out the old year and ring in the new. As the clock - Big Ben - 🍌 strikes midnight, people link arms and sing a song called Auld Lang Syne. It reminds them of old and new friends.

Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the period which Christians call Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were 🍌 forbidden during Lent.

Easter is the time for holidays, festivals and a time for giving chocolate Easter eggs. In the UK before they were replaced by chocolate Easter eggs real eggs were used, in most cases, chicken eggs. The eggs were 🍌 hard-boiled and 🍌 died in various colors and patterns. The traditionally bright colours represented spring and light. In the UK children believe that if they are good the Easter Bunny will leave chocolate eggs for them.

Halloween is an ancient festival, which was said to be a night when ghosts, demons and witches 🍌 roamed the earth and people tried to placate them with offerings of nuts and 🍌 berries. Today in the UK it is celebrated on All Hallows Eve, the night of October 31. Many of today's Halloween traditions are associated with America; however they originated in Celtic history. For example the custom of trick or treat originated in England. Nowadays children dress up in costumes and go from door to door where they knock on the door, or ring the doorbell, and shout Trick or treat!. The idea is that the owners of the house give the children a treat (sweets or money) or the children will 🍌 play a trick on them. Another tradition is that of the Jack O'Lantern and it was the Irish who brought it to America. Nowadays the typical Jack O'Lantern is a 🍌 pumpkin whose top and stem have been carved out to leave a hollow shell. A light source (traditionally a candle) is placed inside the pumpkin and the top is put back into place




Self-evaluation

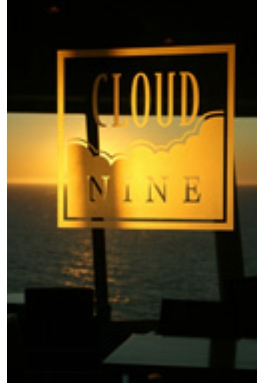
Read the text again and fill in the gaps according to the information in the text.

- ✓ The night before New Year is called [REDACTED].
- ✓ New Year's Eve is celebrated in Scotland with a festival called [REDACTED].
- ✓ Auld Lang Syne is sung as the Big Ben [REDACTED] midnight.
- ✓ Pancakes are eaten the day before the beginning of the period called [REDACTED].
- ✓ Easter eggs are dyed in bright [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
- ✓ The [REDACTED] is thought to bring children chocolate eggs.
- ✓ On Halloween if the owners of the houses don't give children sweets or money, they will play a trick on them.
- ✓ The traditional Jack O'Lantern is a pumpkin with a [REDACTED] inside.
- ✓ The Jack O'Lantern tradition comes from [REDACTED].

Enviar

1. Idioms: idioms of feelings

Let's continue with our session on idioms. In this unit we are going to focus on those idioms used to describe feelings,  mood and states.



Think about it

Think of the meaning of the expression **to be on cloud nine** in the following sentence:

On holidays he was on cloud nine.

Are we saying that he went to cloud nine on holidays?

Mostrar retroalimentación

Look at the following table to learn more idioms to describe feelings or mood.

Idioms related to feelings

Idioms	Meaning
To be on cloud nine	To be extremely pleased or happy.
To be as happy as the day is long	To feel on top of the world.
To feel on top of the world	To be very happy.
To be over the moon	To be very happy.
To keep your 🙌 chin up	To be happy despite difficulties.
To jump for joy	To be very happy and excited about something that has happened.
To feel blue	To feel very sad or depressed.
To have a face as long as a 🙌 fiddle	To look very sad.
To be in a mood	To have a bad mood.
To be like a bear with a 🙌 sore head	To be extremely irritable.
To feel all in	To be exhausted.
To be a bit under the weather	To feel ill.
To be at death's door	To feel ill.
To feel like a fish out of water	To feel uncomfortable because of an unfamiliar situation.
To feel guilty	To feel bad about something you have done.
To get cold feet	To feel unsure about an important decision.
To have 🙌 butterflies in your stomach	To have a nervous feeling in your stomach before doing something.



You should know

For more idioms related to feelings, click on the following link:

[Text summary](#)

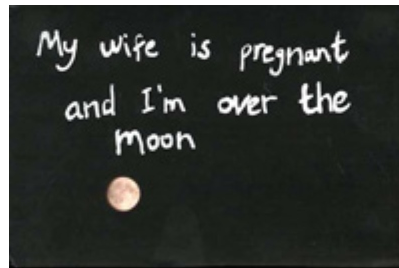


A step ahead

Do you want to know the origin of some of the expressions studied above? Click on the following link and you'll find out.

[The story behind the idioms.](#)

1.1. Now you put it into practice (I)



Autoevaluación

Match the two parts to form idioms related to feelings:

Matching exercise.

First part.	Number.	Second part
To keep	<input type="radio"/>	A. on top of the world.
To be	<input type="radio"/>	B. over the moon.
To feel	<input type="radio"/>	C. cold feet.
To jump	<input type="radio"/>	D. butterflies in your stomach.
To get	<input type="radio"/>	E. for joy.
To have	<input type="radio"/>	F. a fish out of water.
To feel like	<input type="radio"/>	G. your chin up.
To be a bit	<input type="radio"/>	H. as the day is long.
To be as honest	<input type="radio"/>	I. under the weather
To be as fit	<input type="radio"/>	J. as a fiddle.

Enviar

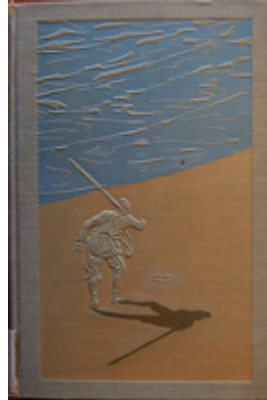


A step ahead

If you are interested in studying more idioms related to feelings, click on the following link:

[**List of English idioms related to feelings and emotions**](#)

2. Literature: Daniel Defoe's “Robinson Crusoe”



Think about it

What do you know about the plot of Robinson Crusoe?

To see if you were right watch the following video:

[Text Summary](#)

English novelist, pamphleteer, and journalist, author of **Robinson Crusoe** (1719), a story of a man 🗑️ shipwrecked alone on an island, together with Samuel Richardson, Defoe is considered the founder of the English novel. Before his time, stories were usually written as long poems or dramas. He produced some 200 works of nonfiction prose in addition to close 2,000 short essays in periodical publications, several of which he also edited.

Defoe was one of the first to write stories about believable characters in realistic situations using simple prose. He achieved literary immortality when in April 1719 he published **Robinson Crusoe**, a travelogue, which was based partly on the memoirs of voyagers and 🗑️ castaways, such as Alexander Selkirk, who spent four years and four months on an island. The first edition was printed in London by W. Taylor but no author's name was given. Although Defoe wrote it in the first person but his narrative voice is not overwhelmingly subjective. Throughout his life, Defoe himself was also a traveller, whose voyages included visits to France, Spain, the Low Countries, Italy, and Germany.

Adapted from: <http://kirjasto.sci.fi/defoe.htm>

Self-evaluation

Read the following paragraphs and write a number next to each one to get the summary of Robinson Crusoe in the correct order.

No sooner is the ship on the open ocean than a stiff wind blows up and the sea gets rough and as this is Crusoe's first time on a ship he becomes tremendously sick and afraid. He vows that, if the ship manages to make port, he will immediately return home. The weather soon clears and Crusoe begins to enjoy the voyage, forgetting his vow to his father. ❶

Robinson remains on the island for twenty-seven years. There is no appearance of man until about 15 years later. He sees a footprint, and later observes cannibalistic savages eating prisoners. They don't live on the island; they come in canoes from a mainland not too far away. Using his guns, Crusoe scares them away and saves a young savage whom he names Friday. ❷

Robinson Crusoe is son of a well-off merchant who yearns to go to sea. His father refuses to give consent, ending the discussion by saying that if Crusoe went to go to sea, God would not bless him. Within a year, at just over the age of eighteen, Crusoe secretly takes passage on a ship traveling from the town of Hull to London. ❸

After some adventures on the sea, he arrives in Brazil where he buys a stretch of land and build up a tobacco and sugar plantation. The first few years are difficult, but within a number of years his plantation begins to grow. He quickly agrees to lead an expedition to Africa to procure slaves for his plantation. The ship sets sail and is quickly damaged by a storm. Of all the crew, only Crusoe survives, washed ashore on a deserted island. ❹

Crusoe is happy that his island is being peopled. A boat of European men comes ashore and Robinson says he will help them as long as they leave the authority of the island in his hands, and as long as they promise to take Friday and himself to England for free. He returns to the English countryside and settles there, marrying and having three children. When his wife dies, he once more goes to the sea. ❺

Five days later a far more severe storm strikes and the ship sinks. After disagreement with the captain of the sunken vessel Crusoe accepts the offer of free passage from a friendly English Captain of a ship headed for the coast of Africa. But this new ship is attacked by pirates, and Crusoe himself is taken as a slave by the pirate captain. Crusoe remains a slave for two years before finally making his escape by stealing his master's fishing boat. ❻

He is extremely grateful and becomes Robinson's devoted servant. He learns some English and takes on the Christian religion. Then, another ship of savages arrives with three prisoners. Together Crusoe and Friday are able to save two of them. One is a Spaniard and the other is Friday's father. After a few months, they leave to bring back the rest of the Spaniard's men. ❼

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Adapted from: <http://www.gradesaver.com/robinson-crusoe/study-guide/short-summary/>

3. Music: Gloria Gaynor's "I will survive"



Quotes to make you think

"Hunger, love, pain, fear are some of those inner forces which rule the individual's instinct for self preservation"

Albert Einstein

This song by Gloria Gaynor is about survival regardless of what you have to overcome. It won the 1979 Grammy for Best Disco Recording and it was the first and last time that the Grammys offered this category. It has been reproduced in 20 languages, including Arabic.



This song was released as the B-side of another song called **Substitute**. Gloria knew this would be the hit, but the president of her record company specifically ordered **Substitute** as the single. Gloria put her efforts into promoting **I Will Survive**, and when club DJs started playing it, radio stations caught on and it became a huge hit.



A step ahead

Click on the following link to listen and read the lyrics of the song I will survive.

[Text Summary](#)



Think about it

Which of the following sentences best summarizes the song?

- a. It is a song written from the point of view of a woman who has recently broken up with his boyfriend, but wants to go back with him.
- b. It is a song written from the point of view of a woman who has recently broken up with his boyfriend, but now she is with another man.
- c. It is a song written from the point of view of a woman who has recently broken up with his boyfriend and is telling him that she can cope without him and does not want anything more to do with him.

Mostrar retroalimentación



A step ahead

If you want to know more about Gloria Gaynor you can visit her official website:

[Gloria Gaynor's official website.](#)

Appendix: Licences of Resources

Licences of Resources u

Resource (1)	Resource Information (1)
	<p>By: Terry. Tyson. Licence: CC by-nc-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/modern_artifacts/284208587/sizes/t/in/photostream/</p>
	<p>By: The GC Four. Licence: CC by-nc. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/zargari/308906353/sizes/t/in/photostream/</p>
	<p>By: mathiaspascottini. Licence: CC by-nc-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/pascottini/6006579515/sizes/t/in/photostream/</p>