

# CELEBRATIONS

## New Year's Eve

### Worksheet

#### Warmer

- How did you celebrate New Year's Eve last year?  
Did you go to a party or stay at home?  
What did you do at midnight?  
Did you drink champagne?

#### Exercise 1: New Year's Eve in Scotland

**In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay. While Christmas is a time to spend with the family, Hogmanay is a time to be with friends.**

Before celebrations can start, it is important to clean the house and have a bath so that the New Year will start well. Hogmanay parties often include dancing, music and singing. At midnight everyone always sings a song called 'Auld Lang Syne' (although most people don't know what it means). The words 'Auld Lang Syne' literally translate from old Scottish dialect meaning 'Old Long Ago', and the song is about love and friendship in times past.

After midnight, the custom of 'first footing' starts. A 'first footer' is the first person to enter someone's house in the New Year. Tradition says that the person should have dark hair and bring a gift. The gift is often a piece of coal and a bottle of whisky.

#### True or false?

- In Scotland, New Year's Eve is celebrated with friends.
- Christmas Eve is called Hogmanay in Scotland.
- It's the custom to clean the house and have a bath before midnight on New Year's Eve.
- 'Auld Lang Syne' is a place in Edinburgh where people meet on New Year's Eve.
- A 'first footer' is the first person to enter a house in the New Year.
- A 'first footer' should ideally be fair with blue eyes.
- The 'first footer' brings a piece of coal if the children have been bad the previous year.



#### Exercise 2: New Year's Eve in your country

- Are any of the traditions in Scotland similar to New Year celebrations in your country?
- What traditional ways of welcoming the New Year do you have in your family or in your region?
- How old are your New Year traditions? Did your grandparents celebrate in the same way?
- Are children allowed to stay up late to see in the New Year?
- Are there any special meals or activities for New Year's day?