

# NOWRUZ

<http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/03/nowruz.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Nowruz is the name of the Iranian New Year and is also called the Persian New Year. It marks the first day of spring. Nowruz is usually celebrated on March 21, or the previous or following day. The exact day depends on the country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. Nowruz originated in a geographical area that was called Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate, people put a special festive display in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is part of the display and when it grows, people are happy because it is a sign of eternal life.

Nowruz has some of its history in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first appeared in writing in the 2nd century AD. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described the holiday as a spring festival of Persian origin that has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday contributes to "cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities". In the month leading up to Nowruz, people clean their homes to prepare for the New Year.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The exact day depends           | <i>a.</i> festive display in their house |
| 2. people from diverse ethnic      | <i>b.</i> on the country celebrating it  |
| 3. a geographical area that        | <i>c.</i> of eternal life                |
| 4. This is modern-                 | <i>d.</i> was called Greater Persia      |
| 5. celebrate, people put a special | <i>e.</i> and religious backgrounds      |
| 6. it is a sign                    | <i>f.</i> day Iran                       |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. The term Nowruz first appeared | <i>a.</i> of Persian origin             |
| 2. a spring festival              | <i>b.</i> diversity                     |
| 3. peace and solidarity           | <i>c.</i> prepare for the New Year      |
| 4. cultural                       | <i>d.</i> up to Nowruz                  |
| 5. In the month leading           | <i>e.</i> in writing in the 2nd century |
| 6. people clean their homes to    | <i>f.</i> between generations           |

## LISTENING GAP FILL

Nowruz (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Iranian New Year and is also called the Persian New Year. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of spring. Nowruz is usually celebrated on March 21, or the previous or following day. The exact (3) \_\_\_\_\_ country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. Nowruz originated in a geographical (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate, people put (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is part of the display and when it grows, people are happy because it is (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Nowruz has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first appeared in writing in (8) \_\_\_\_\_. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described the holiday as a spring festival of Persian origin (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for over 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes values of peace and solidarity (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday contributes to "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ and friendship among peoples and different communities". In (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to Nowruz, people clean their homes to prepare for the New Year.

## WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Nowruz is the name of the Iranian New Year and is also (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Persian New Year. It marks the first day of spring. Nowruz is usually (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on March 21, or the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ or following day. The exact day depends on the country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ethnic and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. Nowruz (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in a geographical area that was called Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate, people put a special (6) \_\_\_\_\_ display in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the display and when it grows, people are happy because it is a sign of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ life.

*festive*  
*previous*  
*called*  
*originated*  
*eternal*  
*celebrated*  
*diverse*  
*part*

Nowruz has some of its (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in writing in the 2nd century AD. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described the holiday as a spring festival of Persian (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of peace and solidarity between (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and within families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday contributes to "(14) \_\_\_\_\_ diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities". In the month (15) \_\_\_\_\_ up to Nowruz, people clean their homes to (16) \_\_\_\_\_ for the New Year.

*generations*  
*leading*  
*appeared*  
*prepare*  
*origin*  
*history*  
*cultural*  
*values*

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Nowruz is the *name / naming* of the Iranian New Year and is also called the Persian New Year. It *markets / marks* the first day of spring. Nowruz is usually *celebrated / celebration* on March 21, or the previous or *following / follow-up* day. The exact day depends on the country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from diverse ethnic and *religion / religious* backgrounds for thousands of years. Nowruz originated in a geographical area that was called Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate, people put a *special / specially* festive display in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is part of the display and when it *grew / grows*, people are happy because it is a sign of *eternal / eternally* life.

Nowruz has *some / many* of its history in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first *appeared / appearance* in writing in the 2nd century AD. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described *a / the* holiday as a spring festival of Persian origin that has been celebrated for *above / over* 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes values of *peace / piece* and solidarity between generations and within families as well as *reconciliation / reconcile* and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday contributes to "cultural *diversion / diversity* and friendship among peoples and different communities". In the month leading up to Nowruz, people clean their homes to prepare *of / for* the New Year.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Nowruz is the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Iranian New Year and is also called the Persian New Year. It marks the first day of spring. Nowruz is usually (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on March 21, or the previous or following day. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ day depends on the country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from diverse ethnic and religious (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for thousands of years. Nowruz originated in a geographical area that was called Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate, people put a special (5) \_\_\_\_\_ display in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is part of the display and when it grows, people are happy because it is a sign of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Nowruz has some of its (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first appeared (8) \_\_\_\_\_ writing in the 2nd century AD. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described the holiday as a spring festival of Persian (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday contributes to "cultural (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and friendship among peoples and different communities". In the month leading (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to Nowruz, people clean their homes to prepare for the New Year.

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                 |                 |                |               |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) name        | (b) naming      | (c) named      | (d) name's    |
| 2.  | (a) celebratory | (b) celebration | (c) celebrated | (d) celebrate |
| 3.  | (a) contact     | (b) exact       | (c) enact      | (d) pretext   |
| 4.  | (a) backgrounds | (b) foregrounds | (c) grounding  | (d) grounds   |
| 5.  | (a) festivities | (b) festival    | (c) restive    | (d) festive   |
| 6.  | (a) forever     | (b) lengthy     | (c) external   | (d) eternal   |
| 7.  | (a) history     | (b) days        | (c) mission    | (d) reports   |
| 8.  | (a) on          | (b) of          | (c) in         | (d) at        |
| 9.  | (a) base        | (b) origin      | (c) dawn       | (d) daybreak  |
| 10. | (a) without     | (b) nuclear     | (c) middle     | (d) within    |
| 11. | (a) division    | (b) diversity   | (c) dividends  | (d) divinity  |
| 12. | (a) down        | (b) over        | (c) up         | (d) through   |

## SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

### Paragraph 1

1. tcaebledre on March 21
2. the ivopuser or following day
3. people from diverse ethnic and uigreiols backgrounds
4. a chpliergogaa area
5. a special seitvfe display
6. it is a sign of lenrate life

### Paragraph 2

7. the Zoroastrianism leoriign
8. The term Nowruz first reaaepdp in writing
9. values of peace and oaydlirsit
10. between trgeisonean and within families
11. cultural esivyidtr
12. the month alingde up to Nowruz

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) people put a special festive display in their house called a "Haft Seen". Grass is part of the display and when it
- ( ) of spring. Nowruz is usually celebrated on March 21, or the previous or following day. The exact day depends
- ( ) families as well as reconciliation and neighbourliness". It added that the holiday
- ( ) Nowruz has some of its history in the Zoroastrianism religion. The term Nowruz first appeared in
- ( ) grows, people are happy because it is a sign of eternal life.
- ( ) on the country celebrating it. It has been a celebration for people from diverse ethnic
- ( ) up to Nowruz, people clean their homes to prepare for the New Year.
- ( ) contributes to "cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities". In the month leading
- ( ) and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. Nowruz originated in a geographical
- ( ) over 3,000 years. The U.N. said Nowruz: "Promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within
- ( ) the holiday as a spring festival of Persian origin that has been celebrated for
- ( ) writing in the 2nd century AD. In 2010, the United Nations recognized the International Day of Nowruz. The U.N. described
- ( ) area that was called Greater Persia. This is modern-day Iran, Western Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. To celebrate,
- ( **1** ) Nowruz is the name of the Iranian New Year and is also called the Persian New Year. It marks the first day

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. spring of day first the marks It.

---

2. celebrating The depends country day the it exact on.

---

3. A called geographical Greater area Persia that was.

---

4. their People special in a display house put festive.

---

5. is it because happy are People life eternal of sign a.

---

6. in the appeared in century first writing 2nd Nowruz.

---

7. holiday described spring as The festival the UN a.

---

8. to cultural The diversity holiday and contributes friendship.

---

9. leading month the In Nowruz to up.

---

10. the New Year People clean their homes to prepare for.

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE NOWRUZ SURVEY

Write five questions about Nowruz in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Nowruz. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Nowruz. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about Nowruz. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.