



# New Year's Day

## 新年

### I Reading



“Happy New Year!” is an **expression**<sup>1</sup> you’ll hear a lot on January 1, the day when most people in the West celebrate **the beginning of** a brand-new year. The celebration of New Year is one of the oldest traditions in the world. It was first **observed**<sup>2</sup> by the **ancient**<sup>3</sup> **Babylonians** about 4,000 years ago. However, unlike the modern-day New Year, the Babylonian New Year began in the spring. This may seem strange to many Westerners, but when you consider that spring is the season of **rebirth**,<sup>4</sup> it is in fact quite **logical**.<sup>5</sup>



In 153 BC, the **Romans** were the first in Europe to select January 1 as New Year's Day because that was the day when newly **elected<sup>6</sup> officials<sup>7</sup> took office**. The rest of Europe continued to celebrate New Year in spring until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII made some changes to the old calendar. The celebration of New Year was officially moved to January 1 because the **Pope** named the first day of this new calendar New Year's Day.



1. **expression** [ɪk'spreʃən] (n.) 表達；措辭
2. **observe** [əb'zɜ:v] (v.) 慶祝（節日）
3. **ancient** [ˈeɪnʃənt] (a.) 古老的
4. **rebirth** [ri'brɜ:θ] (n.) 再生；復活
5. **logical** [ˈlɒdʒɪkəl] (a.) 合邏輯的；合理的
6. **elected** [ɪ'lektɪd] (a.) 當選的；選上的
7. **official** [ə'fɪʃəl] (n.) 官員

- ★ **Babylonian** [ˌbæbrɪ'lonjən] (n.) 巴比倫人
- ★ **Roman** [ˈrɒmən] (n.) 羅馬人
- ★ **Pope** [pɒp] (n.) 教宗

**phr. the beginning of** ……的開始

**phr. take office** 官員就職



▲ Pope Gregory XIII

▼ ancient Babylonians



「新年快樂！」是國曆一月一日時常聽見的一句話。這一天中，大多數西方人都會慶祝嶄新一年的開始。慶祝新年是世界上最古老的節慶活動之一，約四千年前，巴比倫人率先慶祝新年。然而，不像現代的新年，巴比倫人的新年始於春季，許多西方人可能會對此感到奇怪，但只要想到春季是重生的季節，其實還頗有邏輯的。

西元前 153 年時，羅馬人是歐洲最早選擇一月一日成為元旦的民族，因為那天是新科官員的就職日。其餘的歐洲國家都於春季慶祝新年，直到 1582 年教宗額我略十三世更改了舊制曆法後才有所改變。在教宗將新曆第一天立為元旦後，人們正式將新年的慶祝活動移到一月一日。



Nowadays, people all around the world throw parties to see in the New Year. In the United States, more than a million people visit Times Square in New York City to see the famous “Times Square Ball Drop,” and those who can’t be **present**<sup>8</sup> often watch the event on TV.

At 10 seconds before midnight, the countdown begins: Ten, nine, eight, seven, six . . . And as the clock strikes 12, whistles are blown, people honk car horns, fireworks are set off, and everyone cheers and kisses his or her loved ones (or sometimes even a stranger).

**In addition**, it is traditional at this time for people to make New Year’s **resolutions**.<sup>9</sup> These are often personal **objectives**,<sup>10</sup> such as planning to lose weight or quit smoking. Now, you may wonder when making New Year’s resolutions became a **tradition**.<sup>11</sup> You guessed it! It was 4,000 years ago with the ancient Babylonians!



▼ New Year’s Eve countdown at Times Square

8. **present** [ˈpreznt] (a.) 出席的
9. **resolution** [ˌrezəˈluʃən] (n.) 決心；決定
10. **objective** [əbˈdʒektɪv] (n.) 目標
11. **tradition** [trəˈdɪʃən] (n.) 傳統；慣例

phr. **in addition** 除此之外



現在世界各地的人們會舉辦派對以迎接新年。在美國，超過一百萬人會前往紐約市的時代廣場去看知名的「時代廣場降球儀式」，而無法親自到場的人們則通常會透過電視觀賞該活動。

在午夜前十秒鐘時，人們會開始倒數：十、九、八、七、六……。當午夜鐘聲響起，人們會吹起哨子、鳴響汽車喇叭並放起煙火，大家都高聲歡呼並親吻親朋好友（有時候甚至會親陌生人）。

除此之外，在這個時刻立下新年新希望是項傳統。這些新希望通常是個人目標，像是計劃減肥或戒菸。你現在可能想知道立下新年新希望是在何時成為傳統的，你猜的沒錯，這跟 4,000 年前的古巴比倫人有關！

## II Reading Comprehension Questions

- ( ) 1. When was the earliest celebration of New Year?
- a Four hundred years ago.
  - b In 153 BC.
  - c Four thousand years ago.
  - d In 1582.
- ( ) 2. Why did the Romans choose January 1 as New Year's Day?
- a It began a season of rebirth.
  - b It was more logical.
  - c It was the day that new officials took office.
  - d It was what the Pope ordered.
- ( ) 3. Whom began the tradition of making New Year's resolutions?
- a Pope Gregory XIII.
  - b The Romans.
  - c The Americans.
  - d The Babylonians.
- ( ) 4. Who or what do people in America kiss at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve?
- a A ball.
  - b Their loved ones.
  - c The ground.
  - d Their cars.
- ( ) 5. Which of the following is likely to be a New Year's resolution?
- a I will save more money.
  - b I love New Year.
  - c I shouldn't have cheated on the exam.
  - d Happy New Year!





## Conversation



### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

**Danny** So, Joan. What are your New Year's resolutions this year?

**Joan** I've just made one this year. It's to watch less TV and read more books.

**Danny** Oh, that's a good one. My friend made a **similar**<sup>1</sup> resolution last year. He decided to read a book a week for the **whole**<sup>2</sup> year.

**Joan** Did he **manage**<sup>3</sup> it?

**Danny** No, I think he **kept** it **up** for about six months and then got too busy.

**Joan** Well, six months isn't bad. That's longer than most people manage to keep their resolutions! So, what are yours?

**Danny** I just made one as well. My resolution is to exercise more. I got a new bike for Christmas, so I'm going to try cycling every day.

**Joan** Well, good luck with it!



1. **similar** ['sɪmələ] (a.) 相似的
2. **whole** [hoʊl] (a.) 全部的；整個的
3. **manage** ['mænɪdʒ] (v.) 設法做到；勉力完成

phr. **keep up** 保持





### 新年新希望

丹尼：所以瓊恩，妳今年的新年新希望是什麼？

瓊恩：我今年只有一個新希望，我希望能少看點電視多讀點書。

丹尼：喔，還不錯啊，我朋友去年也有類似的新希望，他希望一整年能每週讀一本書。

瓊恩：那他成功了嗎？

丹尼：沒有，他持續了大約六個月，接著就太忙了。

瓊恩：六個月也頗厲害的，比大多數人守住新希望的時間還長，那麼你的新希望是什麼呢？

丹尼：我也只有一個，我的新希望是多運動。我聖誕節時得到一台新腳踏車，我會試著每天都去騎車。

瓊恩：那麼，祝你好運囉！

## IV Listening Practice



- ( ) 1. Which of the following does David NOT ask Jenny?
- a Whom she's going to kiss at midnight.
  - b If she's enjoying the party.
  - c What time it is.
  - d What her New Year's resolutions are.
- ( ) 2. According to the dialogue, how much time is left until midnight?
- a Five minutes.
  - b Thirty minutes.
  - c One hour.
  - d Five hours.
- ( ) 3. Where will the speakers go next?
- a To the TV room.
  - b To the roof.
  - c To a window.
  - d To the kitchen.

