

Ukrainian Customs

A. Read the text. Which of these customs and traditions do you keep?



CELEBRATING Easter in Ukraine

Most people in Ukraine are Orthodox Christians. Traditionally, they fast before Easter and don't eat meat or anything made of milk. Ukrainians clean their houses thoroughly for Easter and they bake a special type of sweet bread called Paskha. On the evening before Easter Sunday, people go to church and bring beautiful baskets filled with food. Easter church service begins at midnight and the priest begins by blessing all the food. After the service is over, people go home to eat Easter breakfast.

For 40 days after Easter, when people see each other, one says the words 'Christ has risen!' and the other says 'He has indeed risen!' People also visit each other's homes and play Easter games. The most famous is 'knocking', when people knock their Easter eggs against each other's. If your egg doesn't crack, you are the winner.

Ukrainian Easter eggs

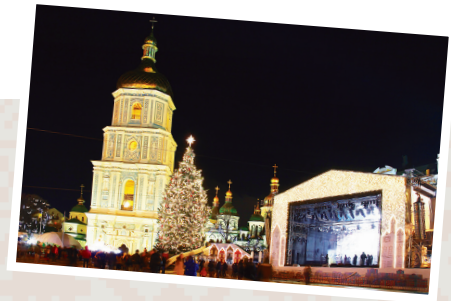
There are two main kinds of Easter eggs. *Krashanky* are the eggs painted with one colour and *pysanky* have many colours and decorations.



Warm-up

Discuss the following:

- ▶ What do you and your family usually do to celebrate Easter and New Year?
- ▶ What's your favourite custom? Why?

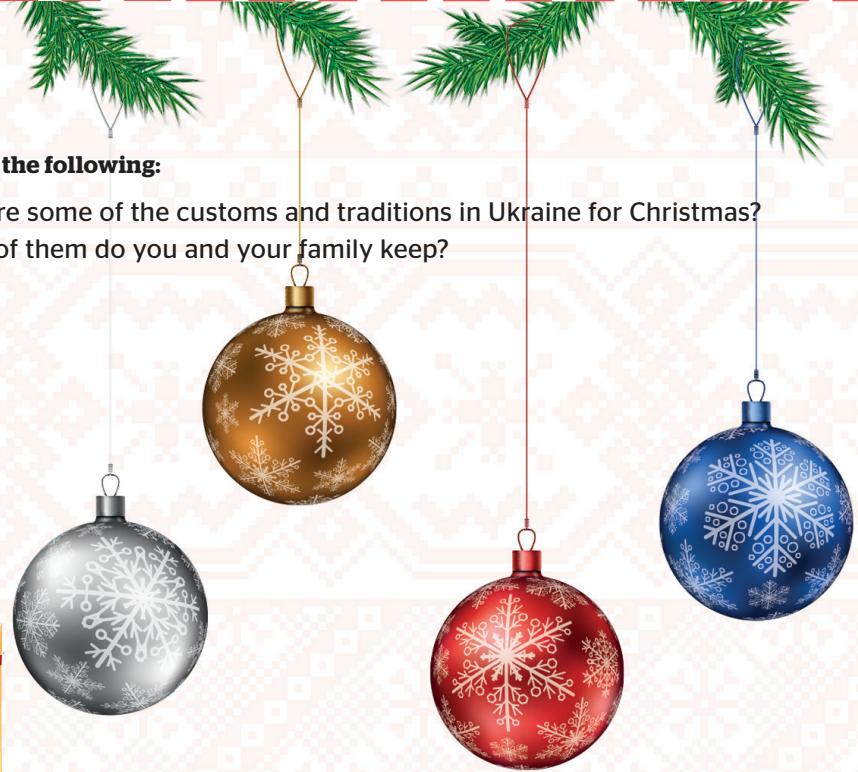


NEW YEAR CELEBRATION in Ukraine

New Year is about new beginnings, gifts and wishes for the coming year. In Ukraine, people celebrate New Year on the 31st of December. Many people go to parties with their friends or family, and most of these parties last all night. At midnight, everyone watches the clock and cheers as the New Year arrives. Many Ukrainians also believe that the first thing you do in the new year sets the tone for the whole year, so they try to start with something positive! In the morning on the 1st of January, people usually visit their grandparents and other relatives. The 13th of January, or 'Old New Year', is also part of New Year celebrations. It is a smaller celebration with ancient traditions. On this day, children wear different costumes and masks and sing holiday songs, and people give children gifts.

B. Read the text again and write T for True or F for False.

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|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. In Ukraine, people celebrate Easter twice a year. | <input type="radio"/> | 4. Pysanky Easter eggs are colourful. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. People bring baskets with food to church on Easter Sunday. | <input type="radio"/> | 5. Some people in Ukraine celebrate New Year twice. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. People knock Easter eggs for fun. | <input type="radio"/> | 6. On 13 January children sing songs and give people gifts. | <input type="radio"/> |



C. Discuss the following:

- ▶ What are some of the customs and traditions in Ukraine for Christmas?
- ▶ Which of them do you and your family keep?

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