

# New Year: Celebrations mark start of 2016

Adapted from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-35205174>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In New York, a million people converged on Times Square, amid tight security. In Brazil, crowds packed Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana beach to watch a spectacular firework display.

Earlier, European cities ushered in 2016, despite heightened security measures in some countries.

In Japan, people released balloons by Tokyo Tower, while South Koreans celebrated with traditional bell-ringing. Revellers in Australia and New Zealand were among the first to welcome 2016.



Celebrations in Berlin went ahead as police warned of a terror attack in Munich and asked people to avoid crowds.

In London, more than 100,000 people watched the fireworks display by the River Thames with thousands of extra police officers on duty. In the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, the traditional Hogmanay party received a New Year message from British astronaut Tim Peake who was broadcasting live from the International Space Station.

In Berlin, fireworks were held at the Brandenburg Gate, with one million people estimated to have attended the countdown.

In Paris, the traditional fireworks display was cancelled to be replaced by a five-minute video performance at the Arc de Triomphe just before midnight. The screening was relayed on screens along the Champs-Élysées. The city's mayor, Anne Hidalgo, said the video was intended to send "the world the message that Paris is standing, proud of its lifestyle and living together", six weeks after gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people in Paris.

In one of the more innovative celebrations, four divers equipped with musical instruments and breathing apparatus performed an underwater "concert" in a fish tank in Yantai, east China.

Festivities went ahead in Dubai despite a fire at the city's Address Hotel. A fireworks display was held near the Burj Khalifa skyscraper.

Despite security fears across Europe, many major public events are going ahead, though with heightened security restrictions. Only 25,000 people in Madrid were allowed into the Puerta del Sol square.

Over in Sierra Leone, the declared end of Ebola was marked by a return to New Year festivities, after Freetown, the capital, was left deserted a year ago due to the disease's outbreak.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Answer these questions as briefly and accurately as you can.**

1. Where was the focus of celebrations in New York?
2. In what city is Copacabana beach?
3. Which were the first countries to welcome in the New Year?
4. How is the New Year traditionally marked in South Korea?
5. What did the celebrations in New York and Berlin have in common?
6. Where did a fire break out?
7. Explain how the New Year was marked in Paris and why.
8. Identify the actions taken to help prevent a terrorist attack in three other European cities:
9. What is the New Year called in Scotland and what was special about the celebrations in Edinburgh?
10. What do you think “innovative” means?
11. Why were there no celebrations in Freetown last year?

## Functional Skills English mapping

Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards.

✓ indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher. **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2*. <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

**Entry 3 Reading skill standard:** Read and understand the purpose ✓ and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information

### Coverage and range statements

- a) Understand the main points of texts ✓
- b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓
- c) Use organisational features to locate information
- d) Read and understand texts in different formats using strategies and techniques appropriate to task

**Level 1 Reading skill standard:** Read and understand a range of straightforward texts

### Coverage and range statements

- a) Identify the main points and ideas and how they are presented in a variety of texts ✓
- b) Read and understand texts in detail ✓
- c) Utilise information contained in texts
- d) Identify suitable responses to texts

**Level 2 Reading skill standard:** Select, read, understand and compare texts and use them to gather information, ideas, arguments and opinions

### Coverage and range statements

- a) Select and use different types of texts to obtain and utilise relevant information
- b) Read and summarise, succinctly, information/ideas from different sources ✓
- c) Identify the purposes of texts and comment on how meaning is conveyed
- d) Detect point of view, implicit meaning and/or bias
- e) Analyse texts in relation to audience needs and consider suitable responses

\*\* This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/content/etf1286> elements.

## ANSWERS

1. Where was the focus of celebrations in New York? **Times Square.**
2. In what city is Copacabana beach? **Rio.**
3. Which were the first countries to welcome in the New Year? **Australia and NZ.**
4. How is the New Year traditionally marked in South Korea? **Bell ringing.**
5. What did the celebrations in New York and Berlin have in common? **Both attended by 1m people.**
6. Where did a fire break out? **Address Hotel in Dubai.**
7. Explain how the New Year was marked in Paris and why. **Fireworks cancelled/5min video performance was shown instead relayed on screens along the Champs Elysee to show that Paris was standing proud after the terror attacks.**
8. Identify the actions taken to help prevent a terrorist attack in three other European cities:  
**Thousands of extra police officers in London.**  
**Numbers limited to 25,000 in Madrid.**  
**Police in Munich asked people to avoid crowds.**
9. What is the New Year called in Scotland and what was special about the celebrations in Edinburgh? **Hogmanay / Tim Peake broadcasting live.**
10. What do you think “innovative” means? **Learner’s own answer – check with tutor or dictionary.**
11. Why were there no celebrations in Freetown last year? **Ebola outbreak**