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## Unit

# Red Letter Days



### **Listening Comprehension**





#### Section A

Directions: There are 5 recorded statements or questions in this section. When you hear a statement or question, you should decide on the correct response from the 4 choices marked A, B, C and D.

- 1. A. That's fine.
  - C. No problem.
- 2. A. 15 December.
  - C. No, Christmas Day.
- 3. A. Reading, or something else.
  - C. That's right.
- 4. A. I hope you enjoy it.
  - C. At home.
- 5. A. I'd love to. Thank you.
  - C. Enjoy your holiday.

- B. It doesn't matter.
- D. I don't think so.
- B. Yes, New Year's Day.
- D. Today is Friday.
- B. Why not?
- D. That is wonderful.
- B. Maybe later.
- D. Nothing much.
- B. I am sorry to hear that.
- D. Never mind.

#### Section B

Directions: There are 2 recorded conversations in this section. After each conversation, there are 2 to 3 recorded questions. When you hear a question, you should decide on the correct answer from the 4 choices marked A, B, C and D.

#### **Conversation 1**

- 6. A. Before New Year's Day.
  - C. On New Year's Day.
- 7. A. Watch a basketball game.
  - C. Watch a football game.

- B. After New Year's Day.
- D. On the morning of New Year's Day.
- B. Have a basketball game.
- D. Have a football game.

Conversation	2		
8. A. Morgan	i's.	B. Catherine's.	
C. Morgan	's daughter's.	D. Catherine's daughter's.	
9. A. 27 June		B. 23 June.	
C. 27 July.		D. 23 July.	
10. A. At 403	Lakewood Avenue.	B. At the Garden Hotel.	
C. At Brid	ge Lake Hotel.	D. At 413 Bridge Lake.	
	section, there is a recorded and the missing words or phrases	short passage with some words or ps according to what you hear.	phrases missing. You are
Christmas party perfect, too. So enjoyed meeting keep in touch an	y. We really enjoyed the 11.  if I were a better dancer, I work g and 13to d make 14	rst of all, let me thank John for inviti and excellent v uld have enjoyed the party twice 12 o you, and sharing the time together. I _ another great one together party. We have had a great time	vine. The music was I hope we'll be able to
	ection, you will hear a recorded complete the answer to it in no t	l passage. After that, you will hear 5 qu more than 3 words.	uestions. When you hear c
Chines 17. Accord The	_	time of the into round cakes? ing against the ruling class were put in	nto round cakes.
At last,	vas the result of the uprising at the uprising re mooncakes filled with nowa		and eggs

20. On which day do Chinese people come together with their families and friends, and enjoy the

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the eighth lunar month.

beautiful moon?



#### **Section A**

Directions: There are 10 incomplete sentences here. You are required to complete each sentence by choosing the appropriate answer from the 4 choices marked A, B, C and D.

1.	Whoever wins the elect	tion is going to have a(n)	job getting the	poor economy back on its
	feet.			
	A. good	B. tough	C. easy	D. light
2.	—Should I dress	or dress on the fi	rst date?	
	—It depends.			
	A. in; out	B. on; at	C. up; down	D. over; about
3.	These plants must be st	ored in the light at above	temperature.	
	A. freeze	B. frozen	C. froze	D. freezing
4.	If you describe certain	food items as, you	approve of them because	se you think they are good
	for your health.			
	A. wholesome	B. wholesale	C. wholehearted	D. wholeness
5.	You may go fishing if y	our work		
	A. is done	B. will be done	C. has done	D. have done
6.	—I won't come to the b	oirthday party unless Mary	, too.	
	—You mean if Mary co	mes, you'll come?		
	A. will invite	B. invites	C. is invited	D. invited
7.	Eating chocolate can ma	ake you happy. But you ca	an't have of a goo	d thing.
	A. so many	B. so much	C. too many	D. too much
8.	The sooner we start, the	e sooner we'll		
	A. get it over with	B. get it off with	C. get it on with	D. get it in with
9.	—It's time to do your h	omework, Jerry.		
	—Yes, mum. I'll turn o	ff the TV as soon as the pr	rogramme	
	A. end	B. ends	C. will be end	D. will end
10.	The crowded train carri	age was packed with pass	engers, so we had to	the crowd carefully to
	get off at our stop.			
	A. push down	B. push aside	C. push back	D. push through

#### 1 INII Red Letter Days

#### Section B

Directions: There are 5 incomplete statements here. You should fill in each blank with the proper form of the word given in brackets.

11. His victory in last year's election (celebrate)	with singing and dancing.
12. I was proceeding along the high street in a(n) (north	n) direction.
13. People also like listening to ghost stories and watch	ning (scare) movies.
14. This is actually a very (entertain)	_ book putting over serious health messages.
15. In psychology, a(n) (behaviour)	sees humans as beings whose behaviour is
almost completely shaped by their surroundings.	



#### Task 1

Directions: The following is about different festivals, and you will find 5 statements about different people numbered 1 to 5. Please match each person with a festival in the passage and write down the corresponding letters from A to F in brackets.

#### A. Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts

#### (West Yorkshire, the United Kingdom)

The Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts is a vibrant celebration of music, drama, and artistic creativity. Over the years, participants have showcased a wide variety of talents, including singing, dancing, poetry, instrumental solos, and so on. The festival provides performers of all ages with a unique platform to express themselves and connect through the performing arts, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

#### **B. Sydney Writers' Festival**

#### (Sydney, Australia)

The annual Sydney Writers' Festival is one of the biggest literary events in Australia and an important literary festival in the world. Attracting a mix of authors, poets, editors, publishers, and book lovers, this is a great event at which people can look through thousands of titles while enjoying workshops, book readings, and seminars.

#### C. Flipside Festival

#### (Singapore)

Flipside is a fun and creative festival featuring circus, puppetry, physical theatre, and comedy. With performances by local and international artists, Flipside surprises and delights audiences with its unique and playful experiences, making it a highlight of Singapore's arts scene.

#### D. Hay Festival

#### (Hay-on-Wye, the United Kingdom)

The little market town, Hay-on-Wye, or simply Hay, is home to numerous bookshops. It bills itself as the world's first and most distinguished town of books, and therefore is a perfect place for a literary festival. The festival is a celebration of great writing. There are events including film screenings and musical concerts, and the bookshops remain open throughout.

#### E. Bergen International Festival

#### (Bergen, Norway)

Founded in 1953, the Bergen International Festival presents an impressive cast of outstanding international artists in the fields of music, ballet, opera, and other performing arts. More than 120 events take place in late May to early June, which is a time of beautiful spring weather. Performances are held at many theatres and outdoor venues around the city centre, creating a memorable experience for audiences.

#### F. Nuits Sonores

#### (Lvon, France)

Held each May, this festival brings together some of the top club DJs from around the world. The focus is on electronic dance music, but it also embraces all musical forms ranging from hip-hop to jazz. For those who want to see daylight hours after a hard night clubbing, there is a wide variety of cultural events during the day ranging from special festival food programmes to films.

#### What festivals would you like to recommend to these people?

- ( ) 1. Martin, a famous writer, likes to find as many opportunities as possible to attend literary events around the world. Martin hopes to make friends with authors, editors, and book lovers.
- ( ) 2. Kelly is crazy about music, especially electronic dance music. She would like to go to a festival where she can enjoy different musical forms. She also has a strong interest in films.
- ( ) 3. As an outgoing girl, Victoria is very fond of the performing arts. She hopes to take part in some festivals that celebrate diverse talents to express herself, connect with others, and improve herself.
- ( ) 4. Simon is in search of a long running festival in Northern Europe where he can appreciate great international performing arts, especially ballet and opera.

( ) 5. Chris is a university student who enjoys creative and unique art forms, especially puppetry. He loves exploring fun and inspiring performances.

#### Task 2

Directions: The following is about American school holidays, and you will find 5 questions or unfinished statements numbered 6 to 10. For each question or statement there are 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. You should make the correct choice.

Naturally, American schoolchildren love holidays, and they get a lot of them each year. Besides having national holidays such as Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day off school, students get longer breaks in the spring and during the summer holidays. In fact, kids in the US attend school for only about 180 days a year, which is something students certainly don't complain about. However, parents often think these long holidays have both advantages and disadvantages.

On the one hand, school holidays allow families to spend time together. Many American parents take time off work during June, July, or August to travel with their children on vacations, either within the US or abroad. On the other hand, schoolchildren get much more time off school than parents get vacation time, which means that parents with young children may have to pay more for babysitting or daycare costs. On top of this, the long summer holidays can sometimes leave students feeling bored.

Besides going on trips with their parents, American students enjoy taking part in different kinds of activities during the holidays. For example, some kids enjoy summer camps and outdoor adventure. Such trips are great for adventurous students. They also have a lot to offer students who aren't usually interested in traditional PE activities. For example, students can do courses in survival skills, where they learn how to make a camp in the forest, and identify which wild food they can eat. They also learn how to find their way back to the centre.

Students who are not that into summer camps or outdoor adventure may enrol in courses such as computer game design, film-making, or photography during the holidays. Finally, the traditional school trip to foreign countries is always popular. Students can practise their foreign language skills and experience everyday life in a different culture.

6. How long are kids in the US at school every year?

A. About 180 days.

B. About 280 days.

C. About 200 days.

D. About 300 days.

7. Many American parents can travel with their children \_\_\_\_\_.

A. for most of the year

B. for half a year

C. during several months

D. for one month

8. What does the underlined word "They" refer to in Paragraph 3?

A. Some kids.

B. Different traditional PE activities.

C. Parents.

D. Summer camps and outdoor adventure.

9. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

A. Both parents and students think long school holidays are perfect.

B. Parents can take care of their young children during the entire holiday.

C. Students enjoy taking part in different kinds of activities during the holidays.

D. Students don't like to go on trips to foreign countries during the holidays.

10. What would be the best title for the passage?

A. School Trips in the US

B. School Holidays in the US

C. School Activities in the US

D. Outdoor Adventure in the US

#### Task 3

Directions: The following is about Valentine's Day. After reading it, you are required to complete the information by filling in the blanks numbered 11 to 15 in no more than 3 words.

Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, an early historical figure who reportedly helped young lovers. Valentine was killed for his beliefs on 14 February more than 1,700 years ago, but the festival that bears his name goes back even further than that.

It has been suggested that Valentine's Day may have origins in a mid-February Roman festival, which involved pairing young men and women through a lottery system according to some later traditions, though there is little historical evidence to support this. Over time, this ancient festival evolved, and Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Nowadays, lovers send each other Valentine's Day cards with loving messages written inside. Sometimes they also send gifts, like flowers or chocolate candies. Americans usually send these gifts and cards through the mail system. But some use another way to send loving messages. They have them printed in a newspaper. The cost is usually a few dollars. Some of the messages are simple and short, like "Jane, I love you very much." Others say more. This one, for example, "Dan, Roses are red. Violets are blue. I hope you love me as much as I love you. Forever. May."

Most of the newspapers that print such messages are local, but *USA Today* is sold throughout the United States, and in 90 other countries as well. This means someone can send a Valentine message to a lover in a far-away city or town almost anywhere in the world. These messages cost 80 dollars and more. An employee of *USA Today* says readers can have a small heart or rose printed along with their messages now. Will this kind of Valentine's Day message reach the one you love? Well, just make sure he or she reads the newspaper.

1.	Valentine's Day is named after 11
2.	Some later traditions suggest that the mid-February Roman Festival may have involved
	pairing young men and women using 12
3.	Americans nowadays usually send gifts and cards through 13
4.	A Valentine message will be sent to a lover in a far-away city or town almost anywhere in the
	world at the cost of 14 and more.
5.	Readers of USA Today now can choose to include a small 15 printed
	along with their Valentine messages.

#### Task 4

Directions: The following is a list of expressions related to traditional festivals around the world. After reading it, you are required to find the items equivalent to those given in Chinese in the table below. Then you should put the corresponding letters in brackets.

A—Valentine's Day	B—April Fool's Day	C—Christmas Day
D—Lantern Festival	E—Halloween	F—Thanksgiving Day
G—Father's Day	H—Qixi Festival	I—Labour Day
J—Spring Festival	K—Dragon Boat Festival	L—Qingming Festival
M—Mid-Autumn Festival	N—New Year's Day	O—Mother's Day
Examples: (A	)情人节	(M) 中秋节
16. (	) 愚人节	( )感恩节
17. (	)春节	( ) 劳动节
18. (	)端午节	( )元旦
19. (	)万圣节	( )父亲节
20. (	)元宵节	( )清明节

#### Task 5

Directions: The following is a passage about a special festival. After reading it, you are required to complete the answers that follow the questions numbered 21 to 25. You should write each answer in no more than 3 words.

Every year, the French town of Menton hosts an event called the Lemon Festival, which usually takes place between mid-February and March. During the festival, a large quantity of oranges and lemons are sent into the town. Hundreds of workers collaborate to make giant sculptures (雕塑) out of fruit.

Menton became the first producer of lemons in 1929, and its lemons are loved by the world's best cooks. In the late 19th century, a town parade was held to encourage Menton's winter tourism. Kings, princes, and artists filled the great and comfortable hotels or bought their own fantastic houses in the town. Because of its great success, the streets were beautifully planted with orange and lemon trees in the years that followed. In 1934, the Lemon Festival was officially born to further develop Menton's tourism, and celebrate its famous lemons.

Sleepy Menton becomes a world of colour during the festival time. People find it very exciting and full of fun. The festival is enjoyed for three whole weeks and features a daily lemon and orange exhibition, town parades on Sundays, and fireworks on Thursday nights.

Every year the Lemon Festival has a special theme. One of the themes is "Tribulations of a Lemon in China." Plenty of lemons and oranges are used to build huge citrus constructions. Some of the events are free, but you need to buy tickets to see the parades.

21.	When is the Lemon Festival held every year?
	It is held between
22.	What did Menton become in 1929?
	It became of lemons.
23.	Why was the Lemon Festival officially born?
	The Lemon Festival was officially born to in Menton, and celebrate its
	famous lemons.
24.	What activities can visitors enjoy during the Lemon Festival?
	Visitors can enjoy the daily lemon and orange exhibition, town parades, and
25.	What's the special theme mentioned in the passage?
	The theme is "Tribulations of a(n)"



#### **Section A**

Directions: There are 4 sentences numbered 1 to 4 in this section. Each of the sentences is followed by 3 choices of suggested translation marked A, B and C. You are required to make the best choice.

- 1. He appeared on the stage and was warmly applauded by the audience.
  - A. 他在台上出现,被观众热烈欢迎了。
  - B. 他出现在台上, 获得了观众的热烈掌声。
  - C. 他在台上出现,被观众热烈鼓掌了。
- 2. The resolution has been unanimously adopted.
  - A. 决议已经被接受。
  - B. 决议已经被否决。
  - C. 决议被一致通过。
- 3. You are not allowed to take so much luggage.
  - A. 我们不会让你带这么多行李。
  - B. 你不允许带这么多行李。
  - C. 你不会随身携带这么多行李。
- 4. The case was being investigated.
  - A. 案件现在正在被调查。
  - B. 案件已经被调查了。
  - C. 案件当时正在调查中。

#### **Section B**

Directions: Please write your translation of the paragraph in the corresponding space.

5. Why not show your dog you care by dressing it up in a cute raincoat and boots? This special day was
created by an animal behaviourist. It celebrates our beloved pets while promoting the pet fashion
industry. Don't worry if your pet doesn't own any clothes—a simple piece of ribbon can make your
pet feel special!



#### Task 1

Directions: The following are some greeting sentences and some special days. Please match them correctly.

- 1. May you two always be in love! May your happiness increase with time. a. Wedding Day
- 2. Happy Mother's Day! To the world's No. 1 mum!
- 3. Wishing you joy and togetherness under the full moon!
- 4. Wishing you all the blessings of a beautiful Christmas season.
- 5. Wishing you and yours a happy new year.

- b. New Year's Day
- c. Christmas Day
- d. Mother's Day
- e. Mid-Autumn Festival

#### Task 2

Directions: Write a Christmas card to your best friend.





Directions: Work in pairs. Make conversations based on the situations given below.

#### Situation 1

A young couple are discussing whose parents they shall have dinner with on the eve of the Spring Festival—an occasion for family reunions in China. The wife wants to be with her parents because one of them is sick, while the husband does not agree because they had dinner with her parents last year. Finally they decide to invite both parents to a restaurant near them and visit them on the Spring Festival Day.

#### Words and Expressions for Reference

- I haven't seen my dad for a long time.
- My mum has been sick.
- Your mum seems to be feeling much better now.
- Dad's health has improved recently, right?
- I just want to make sure both our parents feel happy.
- I think it's important to be fair to both families.
- Why not just have both our parents here for the Spring Festival?
- We can visit both families on different days.
- Sounds like a good idea.
- That certainly makes sense.

#### Situation 2

Festivals are an important part of life, and people see their purpose differently—some think they are for fun, while others see them as a chance to learn about traditions. You and your friends are talking about this phenomenon and don't agree with each other on some of the reasons.

#### Words and Expressions for Reference

- Festivals are a time to relax and enjoy.
- People need a break from their busy lives.
- Celebrations are about happiness and excitement.
- Festivals are a way to pass down traditions.
- They teach people about cultural values and history.
- Festivals have deeper meanings beyond just
- Maybe we can make festivals both fun and meaningful.
- It's possible to teach traditions in a fun way.





#### The 50th Wedding Anniversary

A couple went out for a dinner, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. On the way home, the wife noticed the tears in her husband's eyes, and asked if he felt moved by the 50 years of good times they had stayed together. He replied, "No, I'm thinking of the time before we got married. 50 years ago, your father threatened me with a gun, and said if I didn't marry you, he would put me in jail for 50 years."