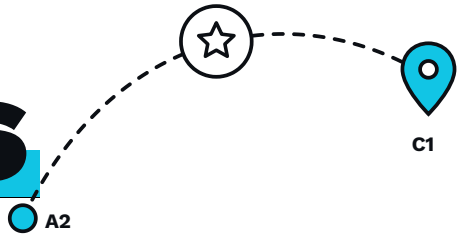
SPEAKING TOPICS TEMAS DE CONVERSACIÓN · A2 → C1

Celebrations



Words, phrases and questions to talk about festivals, traditions and special days — at your level.

Todo lo que necesitas para hablar de fiestas, tradiciones y celebraciones en inglés, ordenado por nivel del MCER.

1 **Find your level.** Start with your column, then try the next one.

2 **Say it out loud.** Read every example sentence aloud — twice.

3 **Make it yours.** Answer the questions on page 3 about **your** life.

1 Vocabulary by level

Vocabulario por nivel

A2 Elementary

- **party** — fiesta
- **birthday** — cumpleaños
- **present / gift** — regalo
- **cake** — tarta
- **fireworks** — fuegos artificiales
- **costume** — disfraz
- **celebrate** — celebrar
- **Christmas Eve** — Nochebuena

B1 Intermediate

- **festival** — fiesta, festival
- **tradition** — tradición
- **decorations** — adornos
- **parade** — desfile
- **bank holiday** — día festivo
- **guest** — invitado/a
- **feast** — banquete
- **wedding** — boda

B2 Upper-int.

- **procession** — procesión
- **custom** — costumbre
- **gathering** — reunión
- **festive atmosphere** — ambiente festivo
- **float** — carroza
- **anniversary** — aniversario
- **ritual** — ritual
- **cultural heritage** — patrimonio cultural

C1 Advanced

- **solemn** — solemne
- **commemorate** — conmemorar
- **pilgrimage** — peregrinación
- **revelry** — juerga, jolgorio
- **communal** — comunitario
- **time-honoured** — de toda la vida
- **extravaganza** — espectáculo
- **homage** — homenaje

2 Phrasal verbs in action

Phrasal verbs con ejemplos

dress up A2
wear a costume or smart clothes
We **dress up** for Carnival.

put up B1
hang decorations
We **put up** the Christmas tree in December.

join in B2
start doing something with others
Everyone **joined in** the singing.

bring together B2
unite people
Festivals **bring** the whole town **together**.

look forward to B1
feel happy about something coming
I'm **looking forward to** the Bando de la Huerta.

take part in B1
participate
Thousands of people **take part in** the parade.

turn out B2
come to an event
Huge crowds **turned out** for the fireworks.

look back on C1
remember the past
I **look back on** those summers with real affection.

3 Party, festival or celebration?

¿Cuál uso?

PRIVATE EVENT
party
A social event with friends, often at home or a venue.

> **I'm having a party for my birthday.**

PUBLIC EVENT
festival
A big public event, often yearly — music, religion, culture.

> **The Spring Festival in Murcia is huge.**

GENERAL WORD
celebration
Any event (or the act) of celebrating something special.

> **The celebrations went on all night.**

4 Idioms & expressions

Para sonar como un nativo

the more, the merrier — B1
more people make it more fun
Bring your friends — the more, the merrier!

in full swing — B2
at its busiest or liveliest
By midnight the party was in full swing.

ring in the New Year — B2
celebrate the start of the year
We rang in the New Year in Puerta del Sol.

the icing on the cake — C1
something that makes good even better
The fireworks were the icing on the cake.

stand the test of time — C1
continue to be popular
Some traditions stand the test of time.

have a ball — B2
have a great time
We had a ball at the wedding.

paint the town red — B2
go out and celebrate wildly
We painted the town red after the exams.

steal the show — B2
get the most attention
The little dancers stole the show.

a feast for the senses — C1
full of colours, sounds, smells
Moros y Cristianos is a feast for the senses.

push the boat out — C1
spend a lot to celebrate
It's your 40th — let's push the boat out!

5 Spanish speakers' traps

Errores típicos

✗ ~~We celebrated a party.~~
✓ **We had / threw a party.**
have / throw a party

✗ ~~Happy Christmas Eve!~~
✓ **Merry Christmas!**
greet with **Merry Christmas**

✗ ~~I received many presents of my friends.~~
✓ **I got lots of presents from my friends.**
presents **from**

✗ ~~In Easter we eat monas.~~
✓ **At Easter we eat monas.**
at Easter / Christmas

✗ ~~The Holy Week is very important.~~
✓ **Holy Week is very important.**
no "the" with festival names

✗ ~~Yesterday was the Saint of my mother.~~
✓ **Yesterday was my mum's name day.**
"santo" = **name day**

6 Quick check

¿Lo has pillado?

1. We had / celebrated a party on Saturday.
2. I look forward to / look forward the summer.
3. The party was in full swing / full jump.
4. We decorate the house at / in Christmas.
5. Everyone joined in / joined on the dancing.
6. The more / The most, the merrier!

Answers: 1 had · 2 look forward to · 3 swing · 4 at · 5 joined in · 6 the more

7 Questions for your level

Practica en voz alta

A2 Cambridge A2 Key style

1. When is your birthday?
2. What do you do on your birthday?
3. What is your favourite festival?
4. What do you eat at Christmas?

B1 Cambridge B1 Preliminary style

1. Describe a festival in your town.
2. Do you prefer big parties or small celebrations?
3. What was the best celebration you've been to?

B2 Cambridge B2 First style

1. Why do you think traditions are important to people?
2. How has the way people celebrate changed?
3. Should tourists be encouraged to join local festivals?

C1 Cambridge C1 Advanced style · discussion

1. Are traditional festivals losing their meaning?
2. Do big festivals bring more benefits or problems to a city?
3. How do celebrations reflect a country's identity?

8 Level up your answer

Sube de nivel

"Tell me about a festival in your town."

A2	In Murcia we have the **Spring Festival**. There are parades. It is fun.	There is/are + simple facts.
B1	In April we celebrate the Spring Festival. People **dress up** in traditional clothes and there's a big parade, **which** I love.	Phrasal verb + relative clause.
B2	The highlight of the year is the Bando de la Huerta. The whole city **turns out**, and by the afternoon the party is **in full swing**.	"The highlight" + phrasal verb + idiom.
C1	**What makes** the Spring Festival **unique** is how it blends **time-honoured** traditions with a very modern street party.	Cleft sentence + precise collocation.

9 Keep talking

Frases para alargar tu respuesta

Describe the event

It takes place in...
People usually...
The highlight is...

Explain traditions

It dates back to...
It's traditional to...
The idea behind it is...

Give your opinion

What I love most is...
It's a great way to...
For me, it means...

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