

All About New Year

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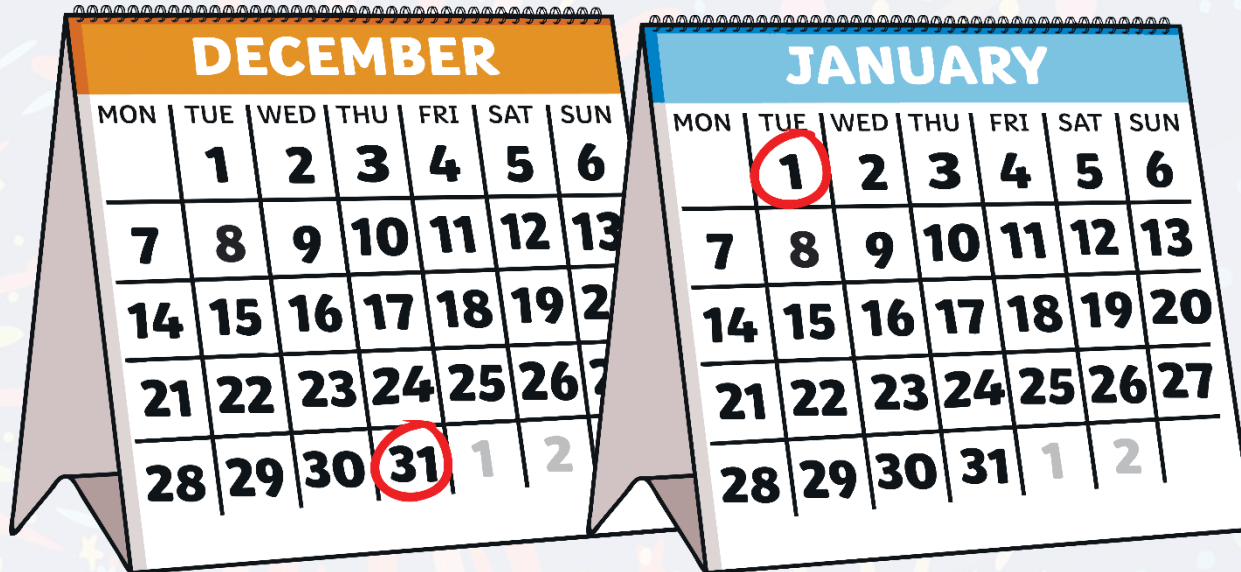
What Is New Year?

New Year's Day is the first day of the new year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country in the world.



When Is New Year?

New Year's Eve is on 31st December. From midnight on that day, it becomes New Year's Day and 1st January. Lots of people stay up on New Year's Eve until midnight so that they can celebrate the start of the new year.

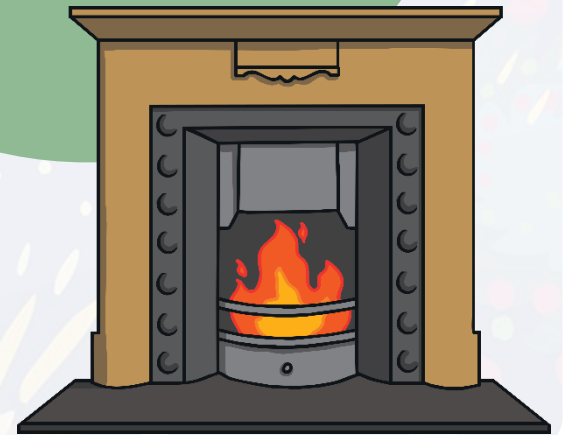


What Was It like Long Ago?



Many years ago in England, some people would give branches of mistletoe to people for charms.

Lots of people in England used to clean their chimneys on New Year's Day. They thought that starting a new year with a clean chimney would bring them good luck for a whole year.



How Do People Celebrate Now?

New Year is celebrated in different ways.

Many people celebrate New Year's Eve by spending time with family and friends.

It can be a time:

- of fun and celebration;
- to think about the past year;
- to hope for good things in the future;
- to think about new beginnings.



Do you celebrate New Year's Eve or New Year's Day? How does your family celebrate?



How Do People Celebrate Now?

People say 'Happy new year!' to each other when they see each other for the first time in the new year.

They might talk about the things they would like to do in the coming year.

They send good wishes to each other for a safe and happy year.



What would you say to somebody who is celebrating New Year's Day?

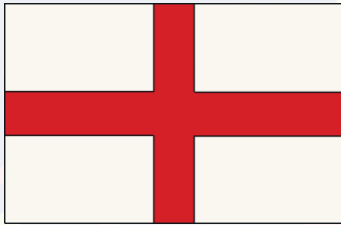


How is New Year celebrated in the United Kingdom?



In Scotland:

- The cannons fire at the stroke of midnight at Edinburgh Castle.
- New Year's Eve is called 'Hogmanay' and people celebrate with gifts.



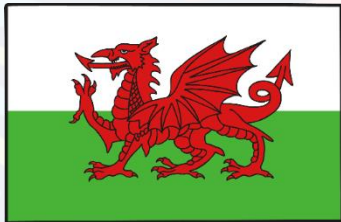
In England:

- Thousands of people watch fireworks in London and Big Ben strikes at midnight to welcome the new year.
- On 1st January, there is a parade in London which has happened every year since 1987.



In Ireland:

- Many people enjoy big firework displays and events in large cities, including Belfast and Dublin.
- Lots of people enjoy small parties in their homes.



In Wales:

- New Year is called 'Calennig'. This means 'first day of the month'.
- In the Welsh capital city of Cardiff, there are lots of celebrations including live music, fireworks, ice skating and fairground rides.
- Many people give bread and cheese as gifts.



What Are New Year's Resolutions?

Is there anything you would like to do better this year?

Could you be more helpful in any way?

People promise to get better at things and some people make a list of their resolutions.

Is there anything that you may like to give up?

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions?

They might be things like:

- I will try to do my best at school.
- I will eat more vegetables and fewer sweets.
 - I will do some more exercise.
 - I will try to keep my bedroom tidy.
 - I will stop biting my fingernails.
 - I will be kinder to my brother/sister.

Can you think of your own New Year's resolution?



What Is the New Year Song?



The traditional song many people sing on New Year's Eve is called 'Auld Lang Syne'. Sometimes, people shake hands while they sing it.

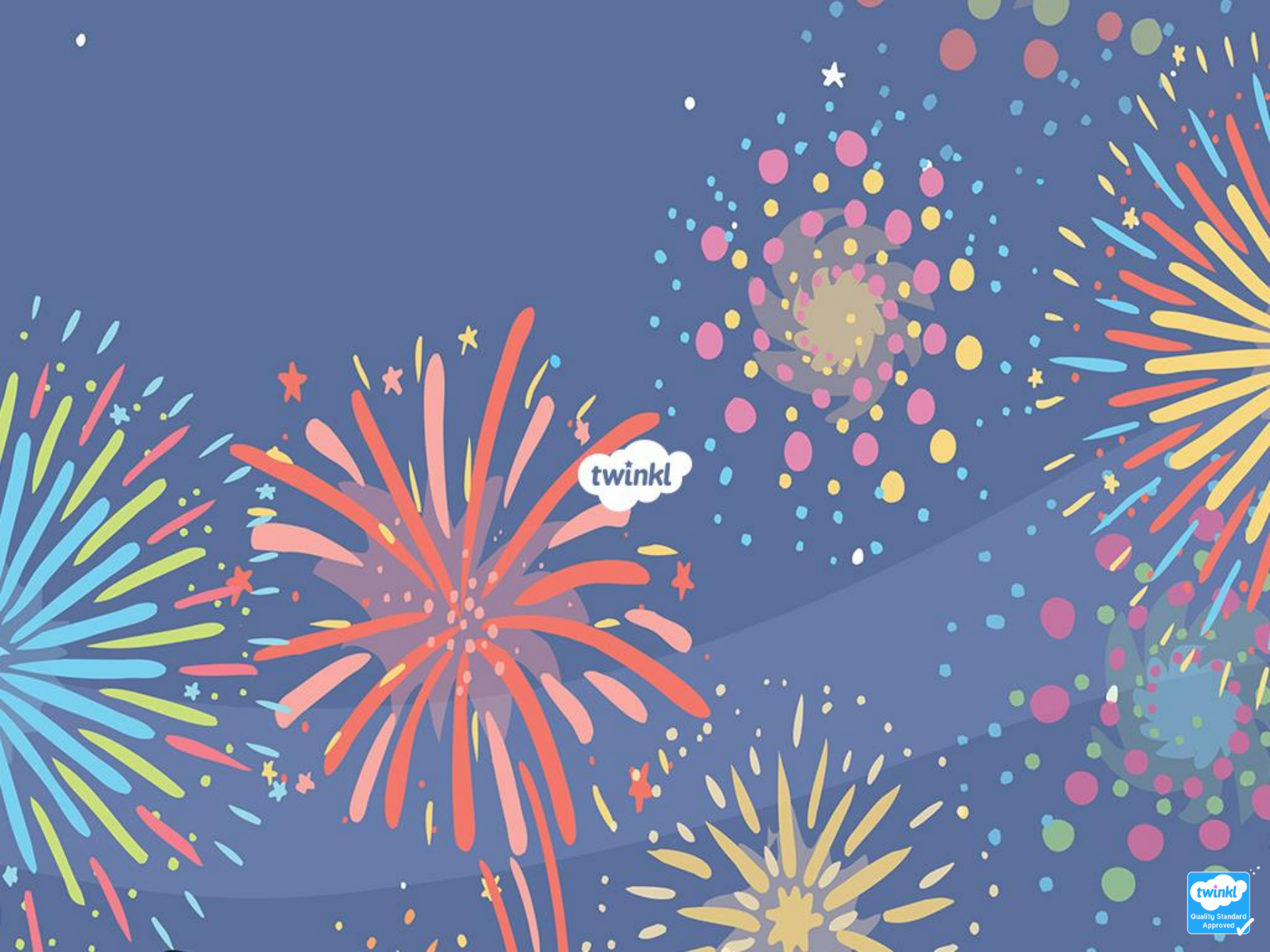
Look at the next page to learn the first verse and listen to the song!



Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!



[Click to listen](#)



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