

- Birthdays around the world
- Songs, games and facts
- The X-tra top ten birthday activities
- Reader survey 4

## Welcome to X-TRA 4: The BIRTHDAY issue

### Is it your birthday?

What do you do on your birthday? What's your best birthday ever?

In X-tra 's issue 4 we look at birthdays around the world. X-tra learns about the top ten birthdays from kids in London. We describe 6 party games. AND we've got some 'strange facts' about birthdays.

So today, tomorrow, next month or next year...

Happy Birthday! Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!



Dominic

Lena

### Birthdays around the world

Here are some birthday customs from around the world.



#### Germany

In the morning they light the candles on the cake and the birthday child blows them out. Sing Happy Birthday:  
Zum Geburtstag viel Glück!

#### Britain

Give the birthday child the 'bumps'. Throw them in the air. One for every year and one for luck.

#### Brazil

Pull the earlobes of the birthday boy or girl. Once for every year. And once more for luck.

#### Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay ...

When a girl is fifteen she wears a beautiful new dress and she dances with her father and all the other boys.

Vsechno nejlepsi k Tvym narozeninam!  
Dogum gunun kutlu olsun!  
Vsetko najlepsie k narodeninam!  
Vse najboljse za rojstni dan!  
iFeliz cumpleaños!  
Sretan Rodendan!  
Joyeux anniversaire!  
Buon Compleanno!





Mexico, Spain ...  
 Mexican children play with a piñata. A piñata is a clay pot. They put sweets, nuts, apples and oranges in the pot. They decorate the pot. Now the pot is like an animal or a star, or a face. They hang the piñata on a rope.

They put a blindfold on the child. The child has got a stick. They turn the child round. The child tries to hit the piñata and break it. Everyone sings:

Dale dale dale	Hit it, hit it, hit it
No pierdas el tino	Don't lose your aim
Porque si lo pierdas	Because if you do lose it
Pierdes el camino.	You lose your way.

In the end, the piñata breaks and the sweets fall down onto the ground – and everyone is happy!

Do you know any other birthday traditions?

## Top ten Birthday activities

Dominic went on to the streets of London and asked kids about their favourite birthday destinations. Here are the results of his survey:

- 1 Bowling alley party
- 2 Laser Quest
- 3 Roller skating party
- 4 Swimming party
- 5 Pizza party
- 6 Theatre/cinema
- 7 Birthday sleepover
- 8 The London Eye
- 9 Birthday at my home
- 10 Museum party



What's your favourite birthday destination?

# X-tra

## YOUR ENGLISH MAGAZINE

### Birthday games

#### Pass the parcel

You get a parcel with a lot of paper around it. The music starts. You pass the parcel round the circle. The music stops. The parcel stops. The player with the parcel takes the first piece of paper from the parcel. The music starts. Pass the parcel. The music stops. The player with the parcel takes the second piece of paper etc. Who finds out first what is in the parcel gets the present.



#### Message mix-up

Whisper a message in your neighbour's ear. They whisper the same message to their neighbour. Their neighbours whisper to the next person. The next person whispers to the next person ... At the end, listen to the message. Is it the same?



#### Wink murder

Choose a detective. The detective goes out of the room. Now choose a murderer. The detective returns. The murderer winks. People 'die'. Can the detective find the murderer?



#### Musical chairs

Everyone sits on a chair. The music starts. Everybody walks/dances round the chairs. Take one chair away. The music stops. Everyone sits down. But not one person. They are 'out'. The music starts again.



#### Musical statues

Run around the room or dance around the room. The music

stops. STOP IMMEDIATELY! Be a statue. You can't be a statue? You are 'out'.



#### Duck Duck Goose

Sit in a circle. One person is 'it' and walks around. He or she taps people's heads and says 'duck' or 'goose'. When 'it' says 'duck', nothing happens. When it says 'goose' the goose stands up. 'It' and the goose run around the circle. Can the goose catch 'it'? Can 'it' sit in the goose's seat?



### Birthday facts

It's your birthday! Today? Did you know:

- It is 31,536,000 seconds since your last birthday!
- There are 76,570,430 new babies in the world since your last birthday – and now there are five more!
- Your heart beats at 72–80 beats a minute. That's 42,075,900 beats since your last birthday!
- We all dream a lot. In your case that's 1,460 dreams since your last birthday.
- August is the favourite birthday month (then July, then September).
- October 5th is the most common birthday in America. May 22 is the least common birthday in the USA.



## Words and pictures

Match the words and the pictures.

dream					heart
duck					blindfold
earlobe					The 'bumps'
goose					star
candles					stick
whisper					rope

### Questions

- 1 Which country (or countries)?
  - a You use a stick and a blindfold.
  - b You throw a child in the air.
  - c You count with ears.
  - d The day starts with candles.
  - e A girl dances with her father.
  
- 2 Which game or games?
  - a There is music.
  - b People 'die'.
  - c Two people run.
  - d People speak very quietly (ssshhhh!).
  - e People can't move.
  
- 3 What are these?
  - a Seventy-two to eighty?
  - b August?
  - c Seventy six and a half million?
  - d One thousand, four hundred and sixty?
  - e 5/10.

### Game

Play message mix-up. What's the message at the beginning? What's the message at the end?



### Reader survey

Make a chart about the school. Ask students about their birthdays. Which is the most common month? Which is the least common month?