



Module B Unit 3

Training 1.1 (p.21)

Announcer : You are Ellen Wu. You are talking to your friend, Marco, about a Japanese festival. Listen to the conversation and decide if the people at the festival must, mustn't or might do the following things. Put the correct symbols in the brackets.

Ellen : Hi Marco. Have you done your project on a festival for Cultural Week?

Marco : Hi Ellen. Yes, I've finished it. Have you done yours yet?

Ellen : Yes, but you tell me about your festival first.

Marco : OK. I'm going to talk about a Japanese festival called Hinamatsuri. It takes place in February.

Ellen : What's it about?

Marco : It's a festival of dolls. It's better known as the Girls' Day.

Ellen : Oh I've heard about it before. ^① People will display some Japanese dolls at home, right?

Marco : Yeah. Actually it's a must-do thing for most families because they believe the dolls contain bad spirits. They think that the dolls will bring them bad luck if they do not display them.

Ellen : ^② How will they display them? Just put them in a cupboard or...?

Marco : No. As it is a custom of the festival, people treat everything very seriously. They have a red carpet and a special set of platforms to place the dolls on.

Ellen : So they must place the dolls on a red carpet. Are there any special ways to arrange the dolls?

Marco : Yeah. There are a total of 7 platforms in the set. ^③ At the top, they put the dolls of the emperor and the empress.

Ellen : That's logical. The king and the queen are the most important people in a country. Is the emperor on the right or left?

Marco : Well, it depends. ^④ In the past, the doll of the emperor was put on the left, but now it varies. You might put it on the right if you like.

Ellen : OK. So what's next?

Marco : ^⑤ On the lower platforms, there are servants, musicians, ministers, protectors and so on. To the Japanese, the placement is very important.

Ellen : Then they must remember to put the right dolls on the right platforms.

Marco : Absolutely. ^⑥ Tell you something interesting. The custom is that people might put the dolls on a straw boat and send them down the river or in the sea after the festival. In the past, they sent the dolls down the river nearby, but now they do it in a fixed area which is near the sea.

Ellen : Why?

Marco : It's because the fishermen always used to catch the dolls in their nets when fishing in the river. You know, the dolls represent bad luck. I don't think the fishermen were happy to see them in their nets.

Ellen : I can understand that. ^⑦ So people mustn't send the dolls down the river. But is it a good idea to send them out to sea? The sea will be full of dolls if they do this.

Marco : No worry, Ellen. The Japanese have

arranged a special area by the pier for people to release their dolls. ^⑧ Then some volunteers will collect the straw boats with the dolls on them and take them to the temple. They will burn the dolls afterwards.

Ellen : They must do it, right? Since the dolls contain bad luck...

Marco : Yeah. ^⑨ As for families who choose not to send the dolls away, they must take the dolls down immediately after the festival. They believe that leaving the dolls up past the 4th of March will lead to a late marriage of the daughter in the family.

Ellen : Oh... Then they must take down the dolls before that day.

Marco : Absolutely! *

Training 2.1 (p.22)

Announcer : Listen to the conversation between you and your classmate, Avi, about an Indian festival. As you listen, answer the question below.

Avi : So what festival are you working on?

Ellen : Have you ever heard about Diwali? It's an Indian festival that is celebrated between October and November. It's a very important festival for Indians and they have different ways to celebrate it.

Avi : Maybe you can tell me more about one of them?

Ellen : No problem. Let's start with the Hindus. In their culture, Diwali is a festival of light, a victory of good over evil. ^① Families celebrate it by lighting small clay lamps and eating sweets as well as traditional Indian food, such as samosas — spicy triangles of vegetables wrapped in flour.

Avi : It sounds great. I love Indian food.

Ellen : Me too. *

Training 2.2 (pp.22-23)

Announcer : You and Avi are discussing different kinds of celebrations around the world. Listen to the conversation and choose the best answer.

Number 1.

Ellen : Hi Avi. Which festival have you chosen for Cultural Week?

Avi : I love fireworks so I've chosen the English festival of Bonfire Night. They always have fireworks, but they also have bonfires. Some people build big bonfires in their gardens. ^① As Bonfire Night is in winter, people like to gather around the bonfires to keep warm. They also celebrate outdoors so that they can watch the fireworks. *

Announcer : Number 2.

Avi : Apart from fireworks, I love bonfires too. I read about another festival that has bonfires — The Festival of Fire in Iran. It's a very old festival and it is still very popular. It happens at the end of the Iranian year.

Ellen : What happens in the festival?

Avi : People light bonfires in the street. They believe the fire will take away sickness and bad things. People jump over the bonfires because they believe it will make the next year a happy one.

Ellen : Wow! I would love to see that.

Avi : Yes, it sounds exciting. ^② They also go around to people's homes in fancy dress costumes to ask for a special mix of berries and nuts, a bit like how people celebrate Halloween in the West.

Ellen : Oh! Last year at Halloween, my friends and I dressed up in fancy dress and knocked on our neighbours doors to ask for sweets. It was great fun. *

Announcer : Number 3.

Avi : I've never done that. But I have experienced a festival you may not have heard of. It is called Hanukkah.

Ellen : Hanukkah? What is that?

Avi : It is a Jewish festival. It is a festival of light. It happens in November or December each year; it depends on the Jewish calendar.

Ellen : How do you celebrate it?

Avi : ^③ Well, the festival lasts 8 days and we have a special candlestick that has 9 candles on it. We light an additional candle each day but also there is an extra candle, usually raised higher than the others, that we also keep lit each day. We light the candles at night and say special prayers of thanks.

Ellen : Apart from the candles and prayers, how else do you celebrate the festival?

Avi : We have special food. Food that is fried in oil is usually eaten. My favourite is a fried potato dish. It's delicious. Children also get money, a bit like how you get red packets for Chinese New Year.

Ellen : That reminds me, I still have some red packets left over from New Year, and I'm hungry. Let's go and eat lunch — my treat! *

Patrick : Relax, Mum. ^① This year we can buy the gifts first.

Mrs Lee : OK, I'm sure your dad will join us this time. He thought Uncle Nick was not happy with the cookies we bought last year.

Patrick : Haha... So, what are we going to do after shopping?

Mrs Lee : ^② Clean the house, of course. It took us one or two afternoons, remember last year? I don't want to rush to the flower market at the last minute this year. It was too crowded and the flowers we bought were really dreadful.

Patrick : Sorry Mum. This year I promise I'll share the cleaning work.

Mrs Lee : ^③ After cleaning the house, we can go to the flower market in the evening. I want to have some fresh flowers.

Patrick : Can I buy some red papers with my favourite cartoon characters?

Mrs Lee : I don't think so. Your dad will be disappointed. He has been practising Chinese calligraphy since last month just for the red papers. ^④ He will teach you to write on the red papers the night before Chinese New Year starts.

Patrick : Oh... We're going to be very busy these few days. *

Training 3.1 (p.24)

Announcer : Mrs Lee and her son are talking about how they prepare for the Chinese New Year. Listen to their conversation and arrange the pictures below in the correct order. Write the numbers (1-4) in the boxes provided.

Mrs Lee : Let's list out what we're going to do next week. You know, last year we almost forgot to buy a present for your grandma.

Training 3.2 (p.25)

Announcer : Rosa is giving a talk to her class about an African festival. Listen to what she says and arrange the pictures below in the correct order. Write the numbers (1-6) in the boxes provided.

Rosa : Last year, I was in America for Christmas and New Year. But, as my host family was African American, we also celebrated a festival called Kwanzaa. The festival lasts for 7 days and it was

really interesting to experience it with an African American family.

① First, we decorated the house with symbols of Kwanzaa. We put a green tablecloth over a table and placed a special mat on it. On the mat, we placed a special candlestick with 7 candles on it. And around it, we added other Kwanzaa symbols, such as a cup and a plate of fruit.

② Second, we made some Kwanzaa flags and painted Kwanzaa posters. The flag has three colours — black, red and green. The green part represents hope for the future. Then we hung them up on the walls. It made the house look really colourful. ③ Then the mother of the family taught us traditional Kwanzaa greetings in Swahili, an African language. There is a different greeting for each day. The greetings are very positive, such as 'kuumba' which means creativity.

④ Later in the evening that day, they lit one of the candles on the special candlestick. The first one to be lit was the black one. On the following days, the red and then the green candles were lit. Every day, we lit a new candle until all the candles were lit.

⑤ On the 6th day of the festival, we had a special feast. We cooked lots of food and all the family gathered together. Before eating, the Kwanzaa mat was placed on the floor with all the other symbols on it, and the food was arranged around it so that we could all help ourselves. Then we were finally ready to eat! We sat on the floor and ate until we were full. The food was delicious.

⑥ On the last day of the festival, the family's children were very excited because we received presents.
Everyone received a book and a

Kwanzaa symbol or handmade gift to represent 'creativity'. At the end of the festival, I thanked the family for letting me enjoy this special time with them. I learnt a lot about African American culture and its community. *