

Unit 11: Culture, Lesson C

Before you watch

A Do you have any strange or unique traditions among your family or friends? What are they? Write a few sentences.

While you watch

A Watch the video. Check (✓) the topics that are discussed.

- birthday candles
- birthday traditions
- bizarre traditions
- pastries
- pulling your friend's ear
- singing "Happy Birthday"
- wedding traditions



B Watch the video. Complete the sentences with the correct word from the box.

Ann	Guy	seem bizarre
from your culture	pull your ear	throw flour

1. _____ thinks that it is unusual when people sing "Happy Birthday" out of tune.
2. There is a tradition where Guy is from where friends _____ once for every year of your age.
3. _____ thinks that a lot of traditions can be silly.
4. Guy heard that there are some countries where they _____ all over you.
5. Guy thinks that traditions _____ if they are not from your own culture.
6. Ann thinks that traditions seem strange even if they are _____.

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After you watch

A Read the statements. Then, write responses that use expressions to soften your comments.

Example: A: In my family, the birthday girl or boy gets to lick the frosting off of the candles.

B: That's kind of gross. Though I guess you're never going to use those candles again.

1. A: Here, people punch you on your birthday — one punch for every year of your age, plus one for good luck.

B: _____

2. A: On my friend's birthday we always buy her balloons to match her age.

B: _____

3. A: We have candles on a cake and you make a wish when you blow them out.

B: _____

4. A: When I was little, my parents baked cupcakes for everyone in my class on my birthday.

B: _____

5. A: In some cultures, they crack an egg over your head when you turn 18.

B: _____

B How do you celebrate your birthday? Do you have any special traditions? Write a paragraph about your favorite birthday traditions, the ones you practice and the ones you just like, and why you like them.
