

Exercise. 1 Read the notes about how Easter is celebrated in different countries and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

Easter is one of the most important Christian holidays celebrated all over the world. Let's look at some of the Easter traditions in different countries:

The U.K.

In the U.K. a very famous tradition is "Maundy Money". On Maundy Thursday (one day before Good Friday), the Queen distributes small silver coins to people. The ceremony takes place in Westminster Abbey in London every year. On Easter Monday children take part in egg-rolling competitions. They roll hard-boiled eggs down grass slopes in parks. The winner is the one who gets to the bottom first.

Italy

In Italy Easter is called "Pasqua". Religious processions take place in many towns on the Friday and Saturday before Easter. People carry special statues of Jesus and the Holy Mother Mary and are often dressed in traditional ancient costumes. The biggest processions are held in Sicily in the towns of Enna and Trapani.

Greece

Easter in Greece is the biggest holiday of the year and is even more important than Christmas. Families and friends meet up for Easter Day. They eat lamb and have a big celebration party with food, wine, music and dancing all day long. They say "Kalo Paska! Happy Easter!"

Mexico

In Mexico people start celebrating two weeks before Easter. On Palm Sunday they buy special woven palms and take part in a special mass. After the mass, they often hang palms on the doors of their homes to protect them from evil. On Easter Sunday many people celebrate in the streets – they meet with friends, eat and drink together. Easter is a very joyful holiday in Mexico.

Spain

Easter in Spain is a very important celebration. On Palm Sunday most people go to mass in the morning. Many processions take place all around the country and people carry statues covered in gold, silver and lots of flowers. The biggest and most famous processions are in Seville.

France

In France many people spend Easter Sunday with family members or friends. They have roast lamb with beans and vegetables. Brightly coloured eggs and omelettes are popular, too. Children get chocolate eggs and rabbits and eat candies.

1. In the U.K. the Queen gets small silver coins from people. T/F
2. Italy and Spain are famous for Easter processions. T/F
3. In Mexico people stay at home and don't meet with friends for Easter. T/F
4. In Greece Christmas is a more important holiday than Easter. T/F
5. In France children eat chocolate and candies for Easter. T/F
6. The biggest Easter procession in Spain takes place in Madrid. T/F

