



Topic: Birthday

Level: Beginner

Grammar Focus: Nouns



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? These words will help you.

cake candles balloons hat woman hands flames icing party number



B. Read and answer the following questions.

1. What is a birthday?
2. How many candles on the birthday cake?
3. What colours are the balloons?
4. What age is the woman? What age will the woman be on her next birthday?
5. What will the woman do with the candles?

C. General chat about birthday celebrations.

What makes your birthday special? Do you have a party? Do you have a cake? Are you given presents? Which birthday has been your best so far? Why?



D. Word Play

1. Nouns are naming words. Nouns carry information about number. The letter 's' is added to the end of most nouns to give the plural form. There are exceptions so take care. Try making these singular nouns into the plural.

For example: hand - hands

hat cake birthday party age woman table candle balloon

Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time. Pause at the end of each sentence when you reach a full stop.

Birthday Surprise

Peter and Pamela are school friends. They like going to movies together and playing computer games. They enjoy the same music. Peter has a big surprise for Pamela on her birthday. She is 18 years old.

Peter takes Pamela to a café in the evening. The table is set for two people. Peter has a knife and fork and Pamela has the same. There is a flower in the middle of the table.

They enjoy their meal. They both order the chicken dish. There is music playing. Suddenly the music stops and the lights dim. A birthday cake is brought to their table and all the people sing 'happy birthday'. Pamela feels very happy.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. We do not know Peter's age.
2. There is cutlery on the table.
3. Pamela does not like to eat chicken.
4. Peter and Pamela dance to the music.
5. The birthday surprise is a happy one.

C. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 What is the birthday surprise for Pamela?

- a. A new computer game.
- b. A knife and fork.
- c. She is now 18 years old.
- d. A meal out at a café.



Q.2 Where did Peter and Pamela meet?

- a. At the movies.
- b. At the café.
- c. At school.
- d. Listening to the same music.

Q.3 What meals do they both order?

- a. The chicken dish.
- b. The dish with the flower in it.
- c. The birthday cake.
- d. The knife and fork dish.

Q.4 When lights are 'dim' they are

- a. Very bright
- b. Not very bright
- c. Many colours
- d. White

Q.5 Why is Pamela very happy at the end of the story?

- a. She has a whole cake to eat.
- b. There is no school tomorrow
- c. She has enjoyed her meal and the birthday cake surprise.
- d. She likes to sing.



Exploring other ideas:

- The significant birthdays: 15 21 100. What they mean.
- Public holidays which celebrate a famous person's birthday.
- Other special celebrations during a year. Family, city and country.
- Millennium celebrations around the world.