

# CELEBRATIONS

onestopenglish

## Cards for every occasion

Teacher's notes

**Age:** Teenagers/Adults  
**Level:** Intermediate (B1)  
**Time:** 30 minutes



### Key:

Top row: Anniversary, Retirement, Get well soon, Wedding

Bottom row: Graduation, Birthday, New baby, Christmas, New job/promotion

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. talk about sending and receiving cards;
2. identify special occasions that cards celebrate;
3. design their own card for a special occasion.

**Language focus:** ways of talking about special occasions, vocabulary related to special occasions

**Preparation:** make a list of useful vocabulary associated with special occasions

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student; one sheet of blank paper or card per student

## Procedure

1. Focus the students' attention on the photo in Exercise 1 and ask them what they think the women are doing (answer: they are buying a greeting card). Ask the student to work in pairs and list all the occasions when people send each other cards.
2. Next, focus the students' attention on the questions and ask them to discuss in pairs. Make sure to check any new or unknown words, focusing on pronunciation and sentence stress as the students ask and answer the questions.
  - When was the last time you sent a card? Who did you send it to? Why?
  - When was the last time you received a card? What was it for?
  - How many cards will/did you send this/last Christmas?
  - Have you ever sent anyone an electronic greeting card via the Internet?
  - Do you think online greeting cards will replace real cards?
3. Ask students to look at the second part of Exercise 1. Ask them to imagine they work in a card shop and have to decide in which section to put each of the nine cards.
4. Write *Christmas* on the board. Ask students if they celebrate Christmas in their country. Ask students to discuss any words they know that collocate (go together) with Christmas (Christmas present, Christmas cake, Father Christmas, white Christmas, Christmas card). Tell students they are going to learn a little bit about the history of Christmas cards.
5. Ask students when they think Christmas cards became popular. Write some suggestions on the board. Ask students to look at Exercise 2 and read the short paragraph about Christmas cards. Conduct class feedback and check any unfamiliar vocabulary and pronunciation.
6. Draw students' attention to the other occasions when people send cards (at the top of the page). Do they send cards on these occasions? What kind of messages do they write in the cards?
7. Students choose one of the categories of cards at the top of the page and design their own card, including a message that appears on the outside of the card and one that appears inside. If you have time, you could ask students to share their cards with the rest of the class.
8. Ask students to complete Exercise 3 in new pairs. When they are finished, check the answers as a class.



**TECH TIP:** As an alternative to creating physical cards, you could ask students to send you an e-card, using free card site [www.care2.com/ecards](http://www.care2.com/ecards) or another site of your choice. They should write a short paragraph to accompany the card of their choice. You could ask them to do this task during class, or alternatively set it for homework.

### Key:

1. d; 2. f; 3. i; 4. h; 5. b; 6. a; 7. c; 8. e; 9. g

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### Exercise 1: Cards

Look at the photo of the two women. What are they doing?

1. When was the last time you sent a card? Who did you send it to? Why?
2. When was the last time you received a card? What was it for?
3. How many cards will/did you send this/last Christmas?
4. Have you ever sent anyone an electronic greeting card via the internet?
5. Do you think online greeting cards will replace real cards?



Look at the cards below. Can you put each card into the following categories?

Graduation  
Birthday

Anniversary  
Wedding

New job/Promotion  
New baby

Retirement  
Get well soon

Christmas



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### Exercise 2: Reading

Happy Birthday	First Communion	Good luck	Mother's Day	Father's Day	Thanks
Valentine's Day	New job	Graduation	Retirement	Teacher	Sorry
Anniversary	New baby	Congratulations	Wedding	Get well soon	
	Engagement	New home	Leaving	Christmas	

It was Sir Henry Cole, an English writer, who was mainly responsible for making Christmas cards popular back in the 19th century. In 1846 only 1,000 cards were printed, but over the following 50 years Christmas cards became more and more popular around the world. Apart from Christmas cards, these days there are cards for countless other occasions, including those listed above.

**Choose an occasion and design a card. Make sure your card has a message in English.**

### Exercise 3: Match the messages

**Match the messages that appear on the front of cards with the messages that appear inside each card.**

- \_\_\_ You're a wonderful couple. Destiny brought you together, caring brought you close, and love made you one.
- \_\_\_ Thinking of you in your sorrow.
- \_\_\_ You've got a new dwelling, abode, place, home, roost, domicile, habitat, residence, nest, hacienda, pad.
- \_\_\_ Hope it won't be long.
- \_\_\_ Happy birthday to my grandpa.
- \_\_\_ The philosopher, the scientist, the writer, the mathematician, the artist, the computer scientist.
- \_\_\_ For the bride and groom.
- \_\_\_ The Lord bless you and keep you.
- \_\_\_ 'Tis the season to be jolly.
- a. Whatever path you choose, you'll be a success. Congratulations on your graduation.
- b. King of the corny jokes. I love you for every one of them!
- c. Wishing you the joys of a very happy marriage.
- d. Happy Anniversary to a couple whose love was just meant to be!
- e. Many blessings on your first Holy Communion.
- f. Hope knowing that you're thought of in a kind and loving way will help to ease your grief and bring peace to you today.
- g. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
- h. Until you can come out and play!
- i. Hope it's everything you dreamed of and more. Congratulations.