

A carnival atmosphere

IN THIS LESSON, YOU:

- discuss different festivals and carnivals
- read articles about carnival in different countries
- decide if statements about a text are true or false
- practise guessing meaning from context

VOCABULARY Festivals and carnivals

1 Work in groups. Look at the photos in the article on page 19 and discuss these questions.

- 1 What do you know about the history of carnival? Where and when does it happen?
- 2 Why might local people like events like these?
- 3 Why might local people not like them?

2 Which of these things can you see in the photos?

bonfire	celebrations	costume	fireworks
float	mask	parade	sound system

3 Match the nouns from Exercise 2 with the phrases (1–8).

- 1 wear a ~ / hide behind a ~
- 2 take part in a ~ / a ~ through town
- 3 ride on a ~ / decorate a ~
- 4 set up a ~ / a really loud ~
- 5 make a ~ / hire a fancy dress ~
- 6 sit round a ~ / throw wood on a ~
- 7 adopt the ~ / take part in ~
- 8 set off ~ / watch a ~ display

4 Work in pairs. For each of the nouns in Exercise 2, choose one of the collocations in Exercise 3. Think of an example from your own life. Tell your partner your example. Find out if your partner has had similar experiences.

A: I went to a fancy dress party last year and **wore** a scary monster **mask**.

B: Really? I've never been to a fancy dress party.

Floats built by local artists parade in Viareggio, Italy.



READING

5 Read the introduction to the article about carnival on page 19 and choose the correct text type.

- a It's from an encyclopaedia entry about carnival.
- b It's an article giving advice on holiday destinations.
- c It's a blog about someone's experiences of carnivals.

6 Read the texts quickly and decide which carnival destination appeals to you. Explain why to a partner.

7 According to the text, are the sentences true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?

- 1 The carnival in Port of Spain was originally a European festival.
- 2 Rich people in Trinidad don't take part in the carnival.
- 3 The carnival in Goa started to become really popular around 60 years ago.
- 4 Only local people can take part in celebrations in Goa.
- 5 There is a protest at every carnival in Dieburg.
- 6 A sweet food is commonly eaten at Dieburg Carnival.
- 7 Dieburg Carnival lasts the longest of the three carnivals.
- 8 The Goan Carnival is the oldest of the three events.

8 Work in pairs. Read the words in bold in the text. Discuss what you think they mean.

9 Match the words in bold with their approximate meaning (1–8).

- 1 reach the end
- 2 lines of rocks in the sea
- 3 people walking past a place
- 4 made fun of
- 5 not real / playful
- 6 starts
- 7 stand, sit or lie in a relaxed way
- 8 playing loudly

SPEAKING

10 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Did you learn anything new about carnivals from the texts?
- 2 Think about your answer in Exercise 6. Would you still choose the same festival now you have read the texts again?
- 3 What carnivals or festivals are there near you? How similar are they to the ones you read about? Do you like to take part in them? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Have you ever been to any carnivals or festivals elsewhere? Where? When? What were they like?

Party round the world

For those with a party mindset, carnival offers the chance to travel the globe. While places like New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro will always grab the headlines, there are in fact carnivals in over 50 different countries. So, if you're looking for something different, we have some suggestions – as well as ideas for what's on offer once the singing and dancing is over.



PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

It's the largest of all Caribbean carnivals with 300,000 people on the streets in some of the most incredible costumes you're ever likely to see. Carnival here dates back to the 19th century when freed slaves adopted the European festival and made it their own through music and characters like 'Dame Lorraine', which **caricatured** posh people of that time. In the past, calypso musicians sang from the floats in the parade, but these days, you're more likely to hear soca music and the songs of Lord Shorty **blasting out** from the sound systems. Soca is a mix of African and East Indian beats which reflects the island's cultural mix; a mix that is also reflected in the popular carnival dish, *doubles*, a flatbread sandwich filled with vegetable curry.

When things have calmed down, Trinidad offers fantastic beaches and wildlife tours as well as cultural sites such as the Temple of the Sea. For the more adventurous, try scuba diving on the stunning **reefs**.



PANJIM GOA, INDIA

Goa hosts one of Asia's biggest carnivals. The idea of carnival was first introduced by the Portuguese 500 years ago, but it only really took off in the 1960s. Since then, it has grown to a four-day event and now includes many Goan and Hindu traditions. The festival **kicks off** with a ceremony led by a character called King Momo, who is played by a different local man each year. Among the celebrations that you can enjoy are huge bonfires, sports competitions, **mock** battles between people throwing eggs and dyed flour, and street theatre with the actors playing jokes on **passers-by**. Food favourites at the festival are spicy chicken Cafreal and chocolate pancakes with banana, and local people say they consume enough food and drink to feed a village during carnival.

After all the celebrations, you may want to just **lounge** on one of the many incredible beaches, but if you still have the energy, visit historic sites like Margao, with its stunning mix of classic Portuguese and Indian architecture.



DIEBURG, GERMANY

People in this tiny town have been celebrating what they call *Fünfte Jahreszeit* (the fifth season) since the 13th century. Events start in November but **culminate** in February with, among other things, Old Women's Day, which celebrates a women's protest in 1824 and now involves women cutting up the ties of male friends and family! There are fancy dress parades including traditional German bands, and some of the wildest partying of all the many carnival celebrations in Germany. One must-eat treat for partygoers are the *Krapfen*, delicious jam-filled doughnuts, which help them celebrate long into the night.

After it's all over and you've had all the jam doughnuts you can eat, take a few days exploring the nearby Black Forest with its stunning landscape and beautiful historic villages. For the more active there's also skiing. For the less active, there's more cake!