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# around English



## STARTING OFF

Discuss the questions below with a partner:

1. How many days in the year are there in your country when people do not have to go to work or school? Work with a partner and make a list.
2. What do you do on each day? Do you usually spend it alone? With your family? With friends? Are there any special traditions on each day in your country (e.g. eating carp on Christmas Eve, painting eggs at Easter)?

Compare what you do with other people in your class. Do they do similar things to you?

## BEFORE YOU READ

For Irish people March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day – is a special day. How much do you know about Irish culture? Work with a partner and try to answer the questions below:

1. Which colour is traditionally the colour of Ireland?  
*a. red      b. yellow      c. green*
2. Who or what is a leprechaun?  
*a. a kind of dance*  
*b. a kind of monster*  
*c. a small magical old man*
3. Which country was St. Patrick from?  
*a. Ireland      b. England      c. Scotland*
4. There are no snakes in Ireland.  
*True or False?*
5. St. Patrick's Day is only celebrated in Ireland.  
*True or False?*



## Around English – activities sheet

### FIRST READING

Read the text and see if your ideas were right. Read as quickly as you can and remember that you don't need to read everything, just to find what the numbers mean.

### VOCABULARY 1

Find and underline the words below in the text.

- Paragraph 1: 'celebrations' → .....
- Paragraph 2: 'symbols' → .....
- Paragraph 2: 'disappear' → .....
- Paragraph 3: 'top' → .....
- Paragraph 4: 'more' → .....
- Paragraph 5: 'around' → .....

Now try to find another word in each paragraph with the same meaning as these words.

### VOCABULARY 2

Find words in the text to match the definitions below.

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#### Paragraph One ('March 17<sup>th</sup> - a festival of all things Irish')

1. When you talk about two things together, and you mean not only one of them but two (all) of them

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#### Paragraph Two ('Symbols of Ireland')

2. After rain, if the sun shines you can see one of these in the sky
3. Money is made of banknotes and...

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#### Paragraph Three ('Who was St. Patrick?')

4. An action done by God, which is impossible according to the laws of nature (e.g. changing water into wine)
5. A person, event, or thing that makes something else happen

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#### Paragraph Four ('St. Patrick's Day traditions in Ireland')

6. The city where a country's government is, usually the most important city (in England, London; in Russia, Moscow)
7. A public celebration with music, bands and people moving through the streets

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#### Paragraph Five ('St. Patrick's Day around the world')

8. To use a substance to change the colour of something (your hair, your clothes, for example)
9. Something which you think is big, good, expensive, important etc.
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