

Another Year of New Year's Traditions & Resolutions



New Year's is the closest thing to being the world's only truly global public holiday, often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts.



In waves of celebrations travel across the globe; whether it is the glittering ball in Times Square or a giant cheese wedge in Plymouth, Wisconsin, champagne flutes clink and kisses are exchanged as countless people toast the New Year.



New Year's Day is observed on January 1, the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar used in ancient Rome. With most countries using the Gregorian calendar as their main calendar. January 1 on the Julian calendar currently corresponds to January 14 on the Gregorian calendar, and it is on that date that followers of some of the Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate the New Year.



So where did all these traditions and resolutions start?

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring) around what is now March 23, although they themselves had no written calendar.

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans tradition of the New Year's goes all the way back to Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar, via their solar calendar which put it in late March.

As their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors it soon became out of synchronization with the sun. So in order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year.

But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, (who developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than previous calendars had) established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It established January 1 as the new year. However, in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

In the Middle Ages, Christians changed New Year's Day to December 25, the birth of Jesus. Then they changed it to March 25, a holiday called the Annunciation. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII revised the Julian calendar, and the celebration of the New Year was returned to January 1.

The Julian and Gregorian calendars are solar calendars. Some cultures have lunar calendars, however. A year in a lunar calendar is less than 365 days because the months are based on the phases of the moon.

The Chinese use a lunar calendar. Their new year begins at the time of the first full moon (over the Far East) after the sun enters Aquarius- sometime between January 19 and February 21.

It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's resolutions and people all over the world have been breaking them ever since. The early Christians believed the first day of the new year should be spent reflecting on past mistakes and resolving to improve oneself in the new year.

Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.



Noisemaking and fireworks on New Year's eve is believed to have originated in ancient times, when noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck.

Legend has it that the Chinese made the first fireworks in the 800s, filling bamboo shoots with gunpowder and exploding them at the New Year with the hope that the sound would scare away evil spirits. According to tradition, Marco Polo brought this technology back to Europe.

It's fair to say, however, that the origins of fireworks are shrouded in smoke; the China story is widespread, and possibly true, but fireworks may in fact have developed in India or the Arab world. Fireworks became known in Europe during the 1300s, probably after returning Crusaders brought them from the East.

Although the date for New Year's Day is not the same in every culture, it is always a time for celebration and for customs to ensure good luck in the coming year.

"Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions.

Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual."

Mark Twain commenting on New Year's Day

In an effort to make this next year better than the last, millions vow to kick bad habits and improve themselves .

Unfortunately, most people make resolutions with the best intention of following through on them. However they usually do not get through March before they either forget the resolutions or put them off for "lack of time". It's hard to change old habits, most people make resolutions and set goals either to start doing something on a daily basis or to stop doing something as long as they can.

A University of Washington study in 1997 found 47 percent of the 100 million adult Americans who make resolutions give up on their goals after two months. This figure has grown to 80 percent in the past decade, according to recent research completed at the University of Minnesota.

There are quite a few different sources *claim to know* what the top New Year's resolutions are that people make each year and the United States government is *no* exception!

According to the U.S. Government these are Popular New Year's Resolutions

- Lose Weight/Get Fit/Eat Right
- Manage Debt/Save Money
- Get a Better Job
- Get a Better Education
- Drink Less Alcohol
- Quit Smoking
- Reduce Stress
- Take a Trip
- Volunteer to Help Others

If those *'government'* resolutions aren't creative enough, or you like to think outside of the box, here are some other ideas for New Year's resolutions that are *not* included on the U.S. Government's list.

- Get Prepared – Write a plan, make a kit, stay informed and aware, practice
- Be responsible for yourself
- Become as self-reliant as possible
- Think for yourself
- Organize your living space or just Get Organized
- Stop procrastinating and wasting time
- Relieve the stress in your life
- Improve your relationships with your family and other people
- Enjoy Life
- Spend Time with Family
- Learn Something New
- Improve Community
- Go Green
- Learn a Language

Tips for Achieving New Year's Goals

While the statistics are grim, our intentions to make 2012 the best year yet aren't doomed. Experts agree that writing down resolutions, sharing goals with others and tracking your progress; can help you achieve success.

- No matter which resolution is chosen, following through with achieving it can be a life changing experience for the better. Each year we are given an opportunity to start fresh with a new goal, and new inspiration of attaining it.
- While some have the best of intentions, and try to make a genuine effort to change whatever needs to be improved in order to enhance their quality of life, others often give up shortly after determining their goals.
- The percentage of those who actually reach their goals is quite low. Setting goals that are attainable is the best way to achieve success no matter what the resolution is. It is better to take small steps toward a goal than to set too big of a goal and give up altogether. Some change is better than none.
- Decide on what is attainable and then take actions to achieve it. For example, instead of making a goal to lose 30 pounds, make a goal to lose 5 pounds. Once that is achieved, set another goal of losing 5 more pounds, that way success can be achieved and continued.

Resolutions:

Although not written for the New Year, yet adopted as such by early New Englanders, Puritan theologian Jonathan Edwards wrote a set of 70 resolutions starting in 1722 that he prescribed reading at least once a week. Many of Edwards' resolutions became the basis for modern sayings such as "*never lose one moment of time*" or "*live with all my might.*"

The United States' form of New Year's resolutions can probably be found with Benjamin Franklin's "*Poor Richard's Almanac*" of 1738. In it, Franklin writes why it is important to get rid of old habits and make better ones around the New Year. Franklin wrote, "*Each year one vicious habit rooted out, in time might make the worst man good throughout.*" Franklin's almanac published the first set of true New Year's resolutions in history.

Charles Lamb wrote an essay vowing to look forward to the New Year when he would enjoy the spring that was published in the *London Times* of January 1821. Lamb's article was about leaving behind the old year, symbolized by cold winter and death and remembering with fondness the warmth of the summer frolics with his friends.

Actor *Errol Flynn* makes a famous New Year's resolution still popular today. The *Pittsburgh Gazette* reported on January 2, 1948 that Flynn promised to "*not make resolutions, as I once did.*" In the same year, *Ronald Reagan* also uttered the famous resolution "*to believe nothing that I hear and only half of what I see.*"



1893

The NY City 'Ball'



New York City in 1907 - That was the year Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of *The New York Times* commissioned the construction of a five-foot iron globe studded with 216 electric lamps. The one-of-a-kind ball fell from a 70-foot flagpole at midnight in Times Square on the last day of the year. With the inaugural drop an ancient ritual was transformed into a spectacular show.



Over the next century, the Times Square ball drop became a symbol of new beginnings and nearly 100 cities across the country replicated the tradition, substituting the glowing sphere for hometown mascots. Each year, the celebrations grow more grandiose as represented by the dazzling 1,200-pound sphere clad in Waterford crystal with 30,000 watts of light-emitting diodes that will descend this year on Dec. 31.

Baby & Father Time



The tradition of using a **baby** to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus.

The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.



In Brittany, a common image used is that of an incarnation of Father Time (or the "Old Year") wearing a sash across his chest with the previous year printed on it passing on his duties to the Baby New Year (or the "New Year"), an infant wearing a sash with the new year printed on it.

In modern time and world-wide, the association of parenthood is with a baby's arrival, with New Year's Eve a father and mother together presenting their newborn child as the new year arrives and is celebrated.

People born on New Year's Day are commonly called *New Year babies*. Hospitals, such as the Dyersburg Regional Medical Center in the U.S., give out prizes to the first baby born in that hospital in the new year. These prizes are often donated by local businesses. Prizes may include various baby related items such as baby formula, baby blankets, diapers, and gift certificates to stores which specialize in baby related merchandise.

Luck

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man.

Food & Drink



Traditional **New Year foods** are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "*coming full circle*," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.



Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming *black-eyed peas*. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The *hog* and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity.



Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. *Cabbage leaves* are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, *rice* is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

Toasting



One of the most venerable New Years traditions is the champagne toast at midnight to ring in the new year.

Toasting can be traced back to the ancient Romans and Greeks who would pour wine, to be shared among those attending a religious function, from a common pitcher. The host would drink first, to assure his guests that the wine was not poisoned. Poisoning the wine was a fairly common practice in ancient times, designed to do away with one's enemies.

In those days the wine was not as refined as it is today so a square of burned bread (toast) would be floated in the wine bowl and then eaten by the last person to drink. The bread was put there to absorb the extra acidity of the wine in order to make it more palatable.

Eventually, the act of drinking in unison came to be called a toast, from the act of "toasting" or putting toast into the wine.



Parades, Games & Celebrations

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California.



Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival.

The celebrations held world-wide on January 1 as part of New Year's Day commonly include the following:



The Philadelphia Tradition



- Parades



- American football: In the United States, January 1 is the traditional date for many post-season college football bowl games, which are usually accompanied by parades and other activities to celebrate the events.



- In Europe, Association Football, where a Full Fixture program is usually played throughout the Premier League and the rest of the League/Non League system in England.



- Ice hockey, most famously the Winter Classic in North America, a National Hockey League game that is played outdoors.
- Concerts
- Entertainment, usually enjoyed from the comfort of home.



- Family time
- Traditional meals



- Church services



- An annual dip in ice-cold water by hearty individuals, most famously by members of the Polar Bear Club

In cultures which traditionally or currently use calendars other than the Gregorian, New Year's Day is often also an important celebration. Some countries concurrently use the Gregorian and another calendar. New Year's Day in the alternative calendar attracts alternative celebrations of New Year.

On New Year's Day, people in certain countries gather on beaches and run into the water to celebrate the new year. In Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Netherlands this is very popular. These events are sometimes known as *polar bear plunges*, and are sometimes organized by groups to raise money for charity. *Polar Bear Clubs* in many Northern Hemisphere cities near bodies of water, have a tradition of holding organized plunges on New Year's Day.



In European countries, the New Year is greeted with private fireworks. This day is also the occasion to make bonfires of discarded Christmas trees in some countries.

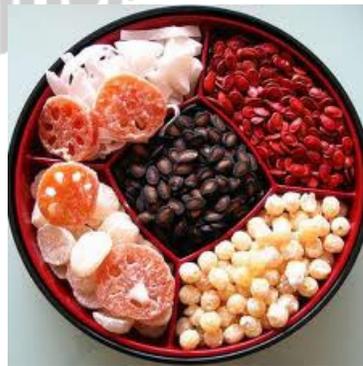


Austria - The suckling pig is the symbol for good luck for the new year. It's served on a table decorated with tiny edible pigs. Dessert often consists of green peppermint ice cream in the shape of a four-leaf clover.

Bahamas - In Nassau, Bahamas, the *Junkanoo parade* takes place.



China - For the Chinese New Year, every front door is adorned with a fresh coat of red paint, red being a symbol of good luck and happiness. Although the whole family prepares a feast for the New Year, all knives are put away for 24 hours to keep anyone from cutting themselves, which is thought to cut the family's good luck for the next year.



Chinese New Year is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is the first day of the lunar calendar and is corrected for the solar every three years. The holiday normally falls between 20 January and 20 February. The holiday is celebrated with plenty of good food, families, lucky red envelopes (filled with money), and many other red things to resembles good luck. Lion and dragon dances, drums, fireworks, firecrackers, and other types of entertainment fill the streets on this day. It is the favorite holiday for many adults and children who celebrate it.

England - The British place their fortunes for the coming year in the hands of their first guest. They believe the first visitor of each year should be male and bearing gifts. Traditional gifts are coal for the fire, a loaf for the table and a drink for the master. For good luck, the guest should enter through the front door and leave through the back. Guests who are empty-handed or unwanted are not allowed to enter first.

In London, England, thousands gather along the Embankment on the River Thames to watch the fireworks around the London Eye

Scotland - One of the traditions is "*first-footing*." Shortly after midnight on New Year's eve, neighbors pay visits to each other and impart New Year's wishes. Traditionally, First foots used to bring along a gift of coal for the fire, or shortbread.



In Scotland, there are many special customs associated with the New Year. These are a part of the Scottish celebration *Hogmanay*, the Scots name for New Year's Eve. The famous street party in Princes Street in Edinburgh is one example.

Wales - At the first toll of midnight, the back door is opened and then shut to release the old year and lock out all of its bad luck. Then at the twelfth stroke of the clock, the front door is opened and the New Year is welcomed with all of its luck. In Wales, *Calennig* is celebrated, with celebrations attracting thousands of people in the capital, Cardiff.



France - In France, people concern much attention to the weather that day. They regard the weather as the prediction of that year: wind blowing east, fruit will yield; wind blowing west, fish and livestock will be bumper; wind blowing south, there will be good weather all year round and wind blowing north, there will be crop failure. People would like to toast for the new year and drink till January 3. They think that they can't gain a beautiful year if they don't drink up all the wine left last year.



Greece - A special New Year's bread (Vassilopitta, or St Basil's cake) is baked with a silver or gold coin buried in the dough. The first slice is for the Christ child, the second for the father of the household and the third slice is for the house. If the third slice holds the coin, spring will come early that year. In general, whoever finds the coin in their piece of cake will be especially lucky during the coming year.

In Greece and Cyprus, families and relatives switch off the lights at midnight, then celebrate by cutting the "vassilopita" (Basil's pie) which usually contains one coin or equivalent. Whoever wins expects luck for the whole year. After the pie, a traditional game of cards called "triantaena" follows.

Haiti - In Haiti, New Year's Day is a sign of the year to come. Haitians wear new clothing and exchange gifts in the hope that it will bode well for the new year.

Hindu - New Year falls at the time and date the Sun enters Aries on the Hindu calendar. Normally on 13 April or 14 April depending on the Leap year. The new year is celebrated children (young and old) by paying respect to their parents and other elders and by seeking their blessings. They also exchange tokens of good wishes for a healthy and prosperous year ahead.



Iran - Nowruz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the year in Iranian calendar. It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on March 21 or the previous/following day depending on where it is observed. Nowruz has been celebrated for over 3,000 years by the related cultural continent. The holiday is also celebrated and observed by many parts of Central Asia, South Asia, Northwestern China, Crimea and some groups in the Balkans. As well as being a Zoroastrian holiday and having significance amongst the Zoroastrian ancestors of modern Iranians, the same time is celebrated in the Indian sub-continent as the new year. The moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator and equalizes night and day is calculated exactly every year and Iranian families gather together to observe the rituals.

Islamic New Year moves from year to year because the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar.



Israel – Israel is one country that uses the Gregorian calendar but does not formally celebrate the New Year's holiday — mainly due to objections by religious parties on the holiday's non-Jewish origins. However, there are Israeli Jews who partake in some sort of celebration. The date of the Jewish new year is celebrated on Rosh Hashanah no matter where the location.

Japan - (Oshogatsu) The new year is the most important holiday in Japan, and is a symbol of renewal. In December, various *Bonenkai* or "*forget-the-year parties*" are held to bid farewell to the problems and concerns of the past year and prepare for a new beginning. Misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven and houses are scrubbed and decorated in tribute to lucky gods.



Another tradition, *kadomatsu*, consists of a pine branch symbolizing longevity, a bamboo stalk symbolizing prosperity, and a plum blossom showing nobility.

At midnight on Dec. 31, Buddhist temples strike their gongs 108 times, in a effort to expel 108 types of human weakness.

New Year's day itself is a day of joy and no work is to be done. Children receive *otoshidamas*, small gifts with money inside. Sending New Year's cards is a popular tradition—if postmarked by a certain date, the Japanese post office guarantees delivery of all New Year's cards on Jan. 1.

Korea – The Korean New Year called Seolnal is the first day of the lunar calendar. Koreans also celebrate solar New Year's Day on January 1 each year, following the Gregorian Calendar. People get a day off that day while have minimum three days off on Lunar New Year. People celebrate New Year's Day by preparing food for the ancestors' spirits, visiting ancestors' graves, then playing Korean games such as Yutnol'i {say: yun-no-ree} with

New Year's Traditions & Resolutions - Continued

families. Young children give respect to their parents, grandparents, relatives, and other elders by bowing down in a traditional way and are given good wishes and some money by the elders. Families enjoy the new years also by counting down until 12:00 a.m., which would be New Year's Day.



Netherlands - The Dutch burn bonfires of Christmas trees on the street and launch fireworks. The fires are meant to purge the old and welcome the new.

Norway - Norwegians make rice pudding at New Year's and hide one whole almond within. Guaranteed wealth goes to the person whose serving holds the lucky almond.

Peru - The Peruvian New Year's custom is a spin on the Spanish tradition of eating 12 grapes at the turn of the year. But in Peru, a 13th grape must be eaten to assure good luck.



Philippines – In the Philippines, fireworks, booming sound system as well as make a lot of noise with the belief that the noises would scare evil spirits away, preventing them from bringing bad luck to the coming new year. The tables are laden with food for the Media Noche or midnight meal, and there is a basket of 12 different round fruits to symbolize prosperity in each of the coming year's 12 months. Public new year parties like those in New York and Sydney are also available to the people and very well attended.

Russia / FKA Soviet Union – In Russia and the other former republics of the Soviet Union, the celebration of *Old New Year* or *Novi God* is greeted by fireworks and drinking champagne. The New Year is considered a family celebration, with a lavish dinner tables and gifts. In Moscow, the president of Russia normally counts down the final seconds of the "old year", as it is called in Russia. The Kremlin's landmark Spassky Clock Tower chimes in the new year and then the anthem starts. It is customary to make a wish while the Clock chimes, so you are anxious to do it in time!



Sicily - An old Sicilian tradition says good luck will come to those who eat lasagna on New Year's Day, but woe if you dine on macaroni, for any other noodle will bring bad luck.

Spain - In Spain, when the clock strikes midnight, the Spanish eat 12 grapes, one with every toll. The tradition is meant to secure twelve happy months in the coming year.

Switzerland - In Davos, Switzerland, the final match of the Spengler Cup ice hockey Tournament is usually held on this day by tradition.



China - For the Chinese New Year, every front door is adorned with a fresh coat of red paint, red being a symbol of good luck and happiness. Although the whole family prepares a feast for the New Year, all knives are put away for 24 hours to keep anyone from cutting themselves, which is thought to cut the family's good luck for the next year.



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red things to resembles good luck. Lion and dragon dances, drums, fireworks, firecrackers, and other types of entertainment fill the streets on this day. It is the favorite holiday for many adults and children who celebrate it.

The Philadelphia Tradition



United States - The kiss shared at the stroke of midnight in the United States is derived from masked balls that have been common throughout history. As tradition has it, the masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the kiss is the purification into the new year.



Probably the most famous tradition in the US is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square, New York City, at 11:59 P.M. Thousands gather to watch the ball make its one-minute descent, arriving exactly at midnight. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood; the current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is six feet in diameter.

A traditional southern New Year's dish is *Hoppin' John*—black eyed peas and ham hocks. An old saying goes, "*Eat peas on New Year's day to have plenty of everything the rest of the year.*"



Another American tradition is the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Tournament of Roses parade that precedes the football game on New Year's day is made up of elaborate and inventive floats. The first parade was held in 1886.



In the United States, it is traditional to spend this occasion together with loved ones. A toast is made to the new year, with kisses, fireworks and parties among the customs. It is popular to make a New Year's resolution, although that is optional. In the country's most famous New Year celebration in New York City, the 11,875-pound (5,386-kg), 12-foot-diameter (3.7-m) Times Square Ball located high above Times Square is lowered starting at 11:59 p.m., with a countdown from :10 seconds until :01, when it reaches the bottom of its tower. The arrival of the new year is announced at the stroke of midnight with fireworks, music and a live celebration that is broadcast worldwide.



"Auld Lang Syne"

The birthplace of "Auld Lang Syne" is also the home of Hogmanay (hog-mah-NAY), the rousing Scottish New Year's celebration (the origins of the name are obscure).

The most commonly sung song for English-speakers on New Year's eve, "Auld Lang Syne" is an old Scottish song that was first published by the poet Robert Burns in the 1796 edition of the book, *Scots Musical Museum*. Burns transcribed it (and made some refinements to the lyrics) after he heard it sung by an old man from the Ayrshire area of Scotland, Burns's homeland.

It is often remarked that "Auld Lang Syne" is one of the most popular songs that nobody knows the lyrics to. "*Auld Lang Syne*" literally translates as "*old long since*" and means "*times gone by*." The song asks whether old friends and times will be forgotten and promises to remember people of the past with fondness, "*For auld lang syne, we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet*."

But it was bandleader Guy Lombardo, and not Robert Burns, who popularized the song and turned it into a New Year's tradition.

Lombardo first heard "*Auld Lang Syne*" in his hometown of London, Ontario, where it was sung by Scottish immigrants. When he and his brothers formed the famous dance band, Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians, the song became one of their standards.

Lombardo played the song at midnight at a New Year's eve party at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City in 1929, and a tradition was born.

After that, Lombardo's version of the song was played every New Year's eve from the 1930s until 1976 at the Waldorf Astoria. In the first years it was broadcast on radio and then on television. The song became such a New Year's tradition that *Life* magazine wrote "that if Lombardo failed to play 'Auld Lang Syne,' the American public would not believe that the new year had really arrived."

"Auld Lang Syne"

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne.

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine,
And we'll tak a cup o kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine,
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit,
Sin auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o thine,
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.



Happy New Year Tongue Twisters

See how Happy New Year is pronounced around the world.

Arabic: Kul 'aam u antum salimoun

Brazilian: Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo means "Good Parties and Happy New Year"

Chinese: Chu Shen Tan

Czechoslovakia: Scastny Novy Rok

Dutch: Gullukkig Niuw Jaar

Finnish: Onnellista Uutta Vuotta

French: Bonne Annee

German: Prosit Neujahr

Greek: Eftecheezmaenos o Kaenooryos hronos

Hebrew: L'Shannah Tovah Tikatevu

Hindi: Niya Saa Moobaarak

Irish (Gaelic): Bliain nua fe mhaise dhuit

Italian: Buon Capodanno

Khmer: Sua Sdei tfnam tmei

Laotian: Sabai dee pee mai

Polish: Szczesliwego Nowego Roku

Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo

Russian: S Novim Godom

Serbo-Croatian: Secna nova godina

Spanish: Feliz Ano Neuvo or Prospero Ano Nuevo

Turkish: Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Vietnamese: Cung-Chuc Tan-Xuan



Some January 1st Birthdays in History

Here's a list of lucky people who celebrate the New Year and their birthday at the same time.

January 1, 1975 Becky Kellar, ice hockey defenseman, Canada, 1998 Olympics

January 1, 1975 Chris Anstey, NBA center, Dallas Mavericks

January 1, 1974 Johnie Church, NFL defensive end for the Seattle Seahawks

January 1, 1973 Clyde Wijnhard, soccer player, Ajax, RKC

January 1, 1973 Fang Li, Hunan China, tennis star, 1991 Futures-Bilbao-ESP

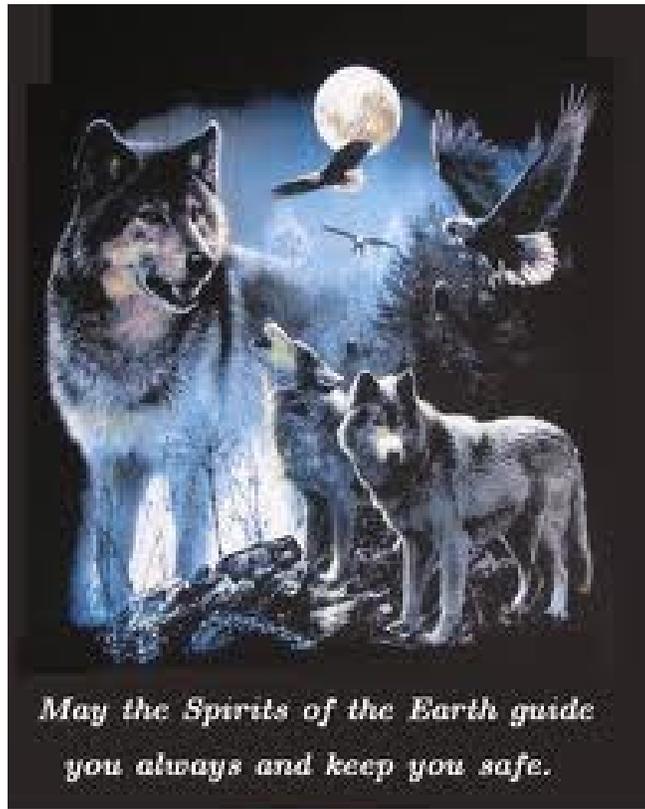
January 1, 1973 Justin Armour, NFL wide receiver for the Buffalo Bills

January 1, 1973 Mercury Hayes, wide receiver for the Atlanta Falcons
January 1, 1972 Barron Miles, NFL def back for the Pittsburgh Steelers/WLAF corner, Frankfurt
January 1, 1972 Ivan Droppa, hockey defenseman, Team Slovakia 1998
January 1, 1971 Beno Bryant, WLAF running back for the Amsterdam Admirals
January 1, 1971 Bobby Holik, Jihlava Cze, NHL left wing, New Jersey Devils, Team Czech Rep
January 1, 1971 Bridget Pettis, WNBA guard, Phoenix Mercury
January 1, 1971 Kevin Lee, NFL wide receiver for the New England Patriots
January 1, 1971 Kevin Mitchell, NFL linebacker for the San Francisco 49ers
January 1, 1970 Brian Morton, Wollongong Australia, canoeist 1996 Olympics
January 1, 1970 Tom Sier, soccer player, South Carolina Heerenveen
January 1, 1970 Vadim Glovatskiy, hockey defenseman, Team Kazakhstan Oly-1998
January 1, 1969 Morris Chestnut, actor, Boyz N the Hood
January 1, 1969 Reemt Pyka, Bremerhaven GER, hockey forward, Team Germany
January 1, 1968 John de Visser, soccer player, South Carolina Heerenveen
January 1, 1968 Sandy Beasley, Richmond BC, softball outfielder 1996 Olympics
January 1, 1967 Andy Heck, NFL tackle, Seattle Seahawks, Chicago Bears
January 1, 1967 Derrick Thomas, NFL linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs
January 1, 1966 Mika Nieminen, Tampere FIN, hockey forward, Team Finland, Oly-br-1998
January 1, 1966 Rawley Valberde, Oceanside California, actor, Amado-Santa Barbara
January 1, 1965 Andrew O Valmon, born in Brooklyn, New York, 400m runner
January 1, 1965 Harry Galbreath, NFL guard for the Green Bay Packers
January 1, 1965 Mark Dewey, U.S. baseball player, Pittsburgh Pirates
January 1, 1964 DeDee Pfeiffer, actress, Cybill
January 1, 1963 Glenn Trimble, cricketer, son of Sam Two ODI's for Australia 1986
January 1, 1963 Lance Smith, NFL guard for the New York Giants
January 1, 1962 Ravshanbek Aliyev, Kirgiz, cosmonaut
January 1, 1961 Irv Eatman, NFL tackle for the Houston Oilers
January 1, 1961 Marcia Cross, actress, Melrose Place
January 1, 1960 Michael David Morrison, actor, Caleb Snyder-As the World Turns
January 1, 1959 Abdul Ahad Mohmand, Afghanistan, cosmonaut, Soyuz TM-6
January 1, 1958 Grandmaster Flash, [Joseph Saddler], New York City, rocker, Message
January 1, 1958 Ren Woods, born in Portland, Oregon, actress, Fanta-Roots
January 1, 1956 Anatoli Borisovich Polonsky, Russia, Lt-colonel/cosmonaut
January 1, 1956 Sergei Vasiliyevich Avdeyev, Russian cosmonaut, Soyuz TM-15, SK:TM-28
January 1, 1955 Michael James Sullivan, born in Gary, Indiana, PGA golfer, 1980 Southern Open
January 1, 1954 Fr David, Paris, France, rocker
January 1, 1953 Alpha Blondy, [Seydou Kone], Ivory coast, reggae singer, Jerusalem
January 1, 1953 Kevin Hagon, composer
January 1, 1953 Rochelle S Abramson, violinist
January 1, 1951 Frans Kellendonk, author, Ruin, The Good for Nothing
January 1, 1951 Jaco Pastorius, rocker
January 1, 1950 Morgan Fisher, rock keyboardist, British Lions
January 1, 1950 Svetlana Georgievna Beregovkina, Russia, cosmonaut
January 1, 1950 Yevgeni Vladimirovich Saley, cosmonaut
January 1, 1949 Nikolai Tikhonovich Moskalenko, Russia, cosmonaut
January 1, 1949 Peter Dormer, arts writer
January 1, 1947 Alexei Ivanovich Bobrov, Russia, cosmonaut
January 1, 1947 Gary "BB" Coleman, blues vocal/guitarist/producer
January 1, 1947 Peter Lankhorst, Dutch MP, PPR
January 1, 1947 Vladimir Georgiyevich Titov, Rus cosmonaut, Soyuz T-8, TM-4, STS 63
January 1, 1947 Jon Corzine, American Politician
January 1, 1946 Manfred Stengl, Austria, 2 man lugist 1960 Olympics gold
January 1, 1945 Jacques Ickx, Belgium, Le Mans auto race, 6-time winner
January 1, 1944 Charlie Davis, cricketer, WI batsman in 15 Tests 1968-73
January 1, 1943 Jerilyn Britz, Minnesota, LPGA golfer, 1979 U.S. Women's Open

January 1, 1942 Country Joe McDonald, California, rock guitarist and vocalist, & the Fish
January 1, 1942 Don Novello, [Father Guido Sarducci], Ashtabula, Ohio, comedian, SNL
January 1, 1942 Gennadi Vassilyevich Sarafanov, U.S.S.R., cosmonaut, Soyuz 15
January 1, 1942 George Couroupos, composer
January 1, 1942 Martin Frost, Rep-D-TX, 1971-
January 1, 1940 Frank Langella, Bayonne, New Jersey, actor, Dracula, Diary of a Mad Housewife
January 1, 1940 Jack Kiefer, Columbia, Pennsylvania, PGA golfer, 1994 Ralphs Senior Classic
January 1, 1940 Laszlo Sary, composer
January 1, 1940 Richard Henry Orton, composer
January 1, 1938 Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard, Queen of Netherlands, 1980-
January 1, 1938 Bill Emerson, Rep-R-MO, 1981-
January 1, 1936 Eve Queler, New York City, conductor
January 1, 1936 Willye B White, U.S. jumper, Olympics-silver-1956
January 1, 1935 Harold Martina, Netherland Antilles, pianist/conductor
January 1, 1935 Valentin Nikolaevich N Benderov, Russia, cosmonaut
January 1, 1933 Anders Bo Leif Linde, composer
January 1, 1933 James A Abrahamson, USAF/astronaut
January 1, 1933 Joe Orton, England, actor/dramatist, Prick Up Your Ears
January 1, 1932 Arnfried G D P, Dutch manufacturer, breadcrumbs, /drugs dealer
January 1, 1931 Carel Brons, composer
January 1, 1931 Siddig El Nigoumi, ceramicist
January 1, 1930 Gaafar Muhammad Nimeiry, premier/president, Sudan
January 1, 1930 Werner Heiden, composer
January 1, 1929 Holling Gustav Vapor, character on Northern Exposure
January 1, 1928 Ernest R Tidyman, Ohio, novelist/screenwriter, French Connection
January 1, 1928 Khan Mohammad, cricketer, Paki fast-med bowler, 54 wkts in 13 Tests
January 1, 1927 Barbara Baxley, Stockton California, actress, Norma Rae, Countdown
January 1, 1927 Juliusz Luciuk, composer
January 1, 1927 Maurice Bejart, France, ballet choreographer, Rite of Spring
January 1, 1927 Yuri Grigorovich, Leningrad, choreographer
January 1, 1926 Claire Polin [Schaff], composer flautist/musicologist
January 1, 1925 George Conner, NFL tackle, linebacker for the Chicago Bears
January 1, 1925 Valentina Cortesa, Milan Italy, actress, Kidnap Syndicate
January 1, 1923 Chalmers Goodlin, U.S. test pilot, XS-1
January 1, 1923 Milton Jackson, U.S., vibraphonist, Milt of Bags
January 1, 1922 Ernest F. Hollings, Sen-D-SC, 1966-
January 1, 1921 Alain Mimoun O'Kacha, Algerian/French cross country, Oly-gold-1956
January 1, 1920 Elisabeth Andersen, [Anna de Bruyn], Dutch actress, Yerma, Titania
January 1, 1920 Roger Peacock, writer
January 1, 1919 Bernard Drukker, Dutch organist/pianist/orch leader, Devil's Wheel
January 1, 1919 Carole Landis, Fairchild WI, actress, One Million BC, Topper Returns
January 1, 1919 J. D. Salinger, American Novelist, Catcher in the Rye
January 1, 1918 Willy den Ouden, Dutch swimmer, WR 100m, 1:04.06
January 1, 1916 Earl Wrightson, Maryland, singer, Paul Whiteman's Goodyear Revue
January 1, 1915 Francois Bondy, writer
January 1, 1915 Lewis Bingham Keeble, town planner
January 1, 1913 Eliot Janeway, financial writer, Economics of Chaos
January 1, 1912 Kim Philby, British spy/Soviet mole
January 1, 1912 Victor Reuther, Wheeling, West Virginia, labor leader
January 1, 1911 Hank Greenberg, Hall-of-Fame 1st baseman, Detroit Tiger
January 1, 1910 Russ Bender, actor and writer, Amazing Colossal Man, Space Monster
January 1, 1909 Barry Goldwater, Sen-R-Az, 1953-65, 69-, President candidate, R, 1964
January 1, 1909 D. D. Hindlekar, cricketer, Indian batsman and wicket-keeper 1936-46
January 1, 1909 Dana Andrews, Collins Mississippi, actor, Battle of the Bulge, Laura
January 1, 1908 Kinue Hitoma, Japan, 800m runner, Oly-silver-1928

January 1, 1907 Erich Schmid, composer
January 1, 1906 Frank Stack, Canada, speed skater, Olympic-bronze-1932
January 1, 1905 Melvin Price, Rep-D-IL, 1945-
January 1, 1902 Buster Nupen, cricketer, 1-eyed South African quick, great on matting
January 1, 1902 Dimiter Nenov, composer
January 1, 1901 Christine WI Wittewaall van Stoetwegen, Dutch MP, CDD
January 1, 1900 Hubert van Doorne, Dutch auto manufacturer, DAF
January 1, 1900 William Haines, Staunton, Virginia, actor, Fast Life, Little Annie Rooney
January 1, 1900 Xavier Cugat, born in Spain, bandleader, married Abbe Lane, Charo
January 1, 19?? Amban. Beloved Goddess/High Priestess/Patron Saint of a.r.c.
January 1, 1899 Juozas Tallat-Kelpsa, composer
January 1, 1899 Lev V Kuleshov, Russian director/theorist, Po Zakonu
January 1, 1899 Raymond Loucheur, composer
January 1, 1898 George van Derton, Belgian
January 1, 1898 George van Derton, Belgian racer, won 500 race
January 1, 1898 Viktor Ullmann, opera composer, Der Kaiser von Atlantis
January 1, 1897 Walter Greaza, St. Paul, Minnesota, actor, Martin Kane Private Eye
January 1, 1896 Maurice Jacobson, composer
January 1, 1896 Teinosuke Kinugasa, Japans actor and director, Jujiro, Jigoku-mon
January 1, 1896 Yitzhak Edel, composer
January 1, 1895 Nathaniel Shilkret, New York City, conductor
January 1, 1895 J. Edgar Hoover, American Public Servant
January 1, 1892 Artur Rodzinski, Spalato, Dalmatia, Poland, conductor/composer
January 1, 1892 Manuel Roxas y Acuna, 1st president Philippines
January 1, 1892 Miklos Radnai, composer
January 1, 1891 Frank Pettingell, Liverpool England, actor, Gaslight, Goose Steps Out
January 1, 1890 Florence Lawrence, Hamilton Ont, silent screen actress, Confidence
January 1, 1889 Alexander Smallens, St. Petersburg, Russia, conductor
January 1, 1889 Charles Bickford, Cambridge Massachusetts, actor, John-The Virginian
January 1, 1889 Tadeusz Jarecki, composer
January 1, 1889 Tom Dugan, Dublin Ireland, actor, Circus Clown, Drag, Skyway
January 1, 1887 Wilhelm Canaris, German admiral/head German military intelligence
January 1, 1885 Roland Diggie, composer
January 1, 1883 Federigo Tozzi, Italian writer/journalist, La Torre, Tre Croci
January 1, 1883 [Hei]ko E Arnoldi, Dutch actor, 3 Drops of Water, /theater director
January 1, 1882 W C Wendelaar, mayor of Alkmaar, 1919-34, /Dutch MP, VVD
January 1, 1881 Carry van Bridges, [de Haan], Dutch author, Heleen, Eva
January 1, 1880 Edie Martin, born in London, England, actress, Titfield Thunderbolt
January 1, 1880 Shalom Asch, Poland, yiddish writer, Motke Ganev
January 1, 1879 Edward M Forster, England, novelist, Howards End, Passage to India
January 1, 1879 Emile Argand, Swiss geologist, Dekbladen Theory
January 1, 1879 Ernest Jones, British psychoanalyst, Life and Work of Sigmund Freud
January 1, 1879 William Fox, U.S. film pioneer, Nickelodeon
January 1, 1879 Edward M. Forster, English Novelist
January 1, 1878 Edwin Franko Goldman, composer
January 1, 1878 Francois Ambrosiny, French dancer/choreograph, L'oiseau enchante
January 1, 1876 Johan C Altorf, sculptor, October 3rd monument
January 1, 1875 Charles Rist, French economist
January 1, 1875 N F Druce, cricketer, 5 Tests for England vs. Australia 1897-98
January 1, 1874 Hugo Leichtentritt, composer
January 1, 1873 Mariano Azuela, Mexico, novelist, The Flies, The Bosses
January 1, 1869 Louis EJM de la Vallee-Poussin, Belgian indologist
January 1, 1867 Charles Edward Montague, English author/critic, Fiery Particles
January 1, 1867 Lew Fields, comedian, of Weber and Fields
January 1, 1865 Giuseppe Ferrata, composer

January 1, 1864 Alfred Stieglitz, U.S. photographer/art dealer, Camera Work
January 1, 1863 Aleko Konstantinov, Bulgarian writer, To Chicago and Back
January 1, 1863 Pierre de Coubertin, France, baron, revived Olympic games
January 1, 1862 Snitz Edwards, Hungary, actor, College, Phantom of the Opera
January 1, 1854 James Frazer, Britain, anthropologist/author, The Golden Bough
January 1, 1853 Hans Koessler, composer
January 1, 1846 Nikola Pasic, Serbian nationalist/premier, 1891..1926
January 1, 1843 Nikolay Nikolayevich Lodzhensky, composer
January 1, 1838 William Hugh Young, Brig General Confederate Army, died in 1901
January 1, 1831 William Joseph Westbrook, composer
January 1, 1827 William Lewis "Old Tige" Cabell, Brig General Confederate Army
January 1, 1819 Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, friend of Matthew Arnold
January 1, 1819 George Foster Shepley, Brig General Union volunteers, died in 1878
January 1, 1817 Martin H Klaproth, Germany, chemist
January 1, 1815 Charles Renouvier, French philosopher, neocriticism
January 1, 1809 John Pieter Heije, Dutch physician/writer/poet, Silver Fleet
January 1, 1800 Sydney Nelson, composer
January 1, 1800 Vaclav Horak, composer
January 1, 1792 Henrik A Bjerregaard, Norwegian writer/poet, Sonner af Norge
January 1, 1784 William Beale, composer
January 1, 1777 Micah Hawkins, composer
January 1, 1764 John Kinker, Dutch linguist/philosopher/poet, Minderjarige Zangster
January 1, 1752 Elizabeth Griscom, Betsy, Ross, flag maker
January 1, 1748 Giovanni Furno, composer
January 1, 1745 "Mad" Anthony Wayne, general
January 1, 1735 Paul Revere, silversmith/US patriot, British are coming
January 1, 1734 John F E Acton, cruel premier of Naples
January 1, 1729 Edmund Burke, British author, Philosophy and Inquiry
January 1, 1723 Christian Friedrich Gregor, composer
January 1, 1714 Kristijonas Donelaitis, Lutheran pastor, Lithuanian poet, The Seas
January 1, 1709 Johann H H Butz, German/Dutch organ builder
January 1, 1697 Johann Pfeiffer, composer
January 1, 1652 Johann Krieger, composer
January 1, 1638 Antoinette du Ligier de la Guard Deshoulieres, French poet/playwright
January 1, 1628 Christoph Bernhard, German composer
January 1, 1622 Isaac Sweers, Dutch Admiral/general/Civil rights activist
January 1, 1618 Bartolome Esteban Murillo, Spain, Baroque artist [baptized]
January 1, 1520 Franciscus Balduinus, [Francois Baudouin], lawyer
January 1, 1504 Caspar Cruciger, German church reformer
January 1, 1481 Huldrych Zwingli, Swiss Protestant reformer
January 1, 1467 Sigismund I, the old, king of Poland
January 1, 1449 Lorenzo de'Medici, [The Magnificent] of Florence
January 1, 1431 Alexander VI [Rodrigo Borgia], Spanish/Italian pope, 1492-1503
January 1, 1387 Charles, The Angry One, king of Navarra, 1349-87
January 1, 379 Basilius, the Great, of Caesarea, holyman, Moralia



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TNT

PS - Here are my resolutions:

Think for myself

Blaze my own path

Treat others as I wish to be treated

Get even more self-reliant

Be even more prepared for the unexpected

Don't settle for 'the lesser of evils' - don't 'settle' period!