

AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 34

IELTS speaking Cue Card

Describe a special event that takes place in your country

You should say:

- When the event takes place
- Why it takes place
- What people do
- And explain why the event is special

Ah... you know, there is this festival or kind of a celebration which **takes place** a week before the new year, on the last Tuesday of the year to be exact. Now, I'm not a 100% positive that I could **pin down** the main reason why people celebrate it but **word has it** that it's an ancient and culturally rooted tradition. It's like since the new year is **around the corner** at that time, people **feel like** welcoming it in a special and not to mention **raucous** way. Let me give you **the low down on** how it all **transpires**. First you ought to know that this ain't no indoor **blast** where some **low-key** party is **thrown** and then everything **settles down**. Actually, **Fire crackers** and hand-made **grenades**, not small but **humongous** ones are normally used to give color to the whole event and get rid of all those year-long **pent up** bad **vibes**. I figure you might still be thinking about the part where I mentioned the hand-made bombs. Well, you heard right, I wish it was just the **innocuous** fire crackers but they're real bombs which are potentially **lethal** and there are a lot of **casualties** each year and to top it all off some these people do not even **pull through** and would't **make it to** the new year. By the way, it's much similar to the 4th of July but I doubt if that one **renders** people dead at the end. Frankly speaking, I'm neither capable nor willing to change people's traditions but I believe every single life counts so folks gotta be a bit more careful with their actions during this festival. Finally, I think this festival's casualty-**prone** nature makes it **stand out** among others.

Language Focus

Take place

occur

"people laid flowers at the spot where the crash took place"

Pin down

If you pin someone down, you force them to make a decision or to tell you what their decision is, when they have been trying to avoid doing this. She couldn't pin him down to a date

Word has it

used to refer to something that is generally thought to be true although not official or known to be a fact:

Word has it (that) they may separate.

(Just)around the corner

not far away, or going to happen soon:

There's a great restaurant just around the corner.

Feel like

to have a desire to do or have something:

He was so rude, I felt like leaving immediately.

Low down

the most important facts about something: Ryan gave me the lowdown on the meeting.

Transpire

to happen:

Exactly what transpired remains unknown.

Low-key

not intended to attract a lot of attention to an event, subject, or thing: They want the funeral to be as low-key as possible.

Blast

a sudden very loud noise, especially one made by a whistle or horn

Throw / have a party

Settle down

to become quiet and calm, or to make someone quiet and calm:

Firecracker

a small firework that explodes loudly

Grenade

a small bomb that can be thrown by hand or fired from a gun: a hand grenade

humongous

very big SYN enormous: rich people living in humongous houses

pent-up

pent-up feelings or energy have not been expressed or used for a long time:

years of pent-up anger and frustration

vibes

the good or bad feelings that a particular person, place, or situation seems to produce and that you react to

innocuous

not offensive, dangerous, or harmful SYN harmless: an innocuous remark

lethal

causing death, or able to cause death → fatal: a lethal dose of heroin

casualty

someone who is hurt or killed in an accident or war: Our aim is to reduce road casualties.

pull through

to stay alive after you have been very ill or badly injured, or to help someone do this: His injuries are severe but he's expected to pull through.

make it to sth

to be able to be present at a particular event

I can't make it on Friday.

We made it to the meeting.

Render

cause someone or something to be in a particular condition

prone

likely to do something or suffer from something, especially something bad or harmful

stand out

to be very easy to see or notice: The outlines of rooftops and chimneys stood out against the pale sky.