

READING (A)

1

Moira is a teacher and she is 28 years old. She is Irish, from Galway.

Yin is 19 years old and he is a student. He is Chinese, from Shanghai.

Faruk is Egyptian. He is from Alexandria, an important city in the north of Egypt. Faruk is 25 years old and he is a receptionist in a hotel.

2

Edinburgh Castle is a very old building, high on a hill in the centre of Edinburgh, Scotland.

You can take a tour of the castle or walk around on your own. You can see many interesting exhibitions, including the Scottish Kings and Queens of the past, and the National War Museum. If the sun comes out, you have a fantastic view of the shops and buildings on Edinburgh's famous street, the Royal Mile.

3

April Fool's Day is on the 1st April. It is not a holiday, it is a day when people play jokes on friends and family. Some good jokes are in the newspapers or on TV – for example, one year on the BBC there was a programme about spaghetti trees in Switzerland. Many people believed it was true!

4

In most countries May Day is on the 1st May, but in the UK the holiday is on the first Monday of May. A traditional May Day activity is maypole dancing, when people in colourful clothes dance around a tree to celebrate the end of winter and the start of sunny weather.

5

Boxing Day is a British holiday celebrated on 26th December. The name comes from the custom of giving servants a small box with a present or money on this day. Today British families meet to watch sport, while others prefer to go shopping on the first day of the sales.

T. Coou

READING (B)

1

Fruit and vegetables are full of important vitamins and minerals which our bodies need to be healthy. Scientific studies have shown that eating a lot of them can prevent some illnesses like diabetes and obesity. Also, fruit and vegetables don't contain much fat and don't have many calories, so they help to keep us slim.

Food experts today think that we don't have enough of these foods in our diet and they say that we eat too much fat and sugar. This is why the World Health Organization has started a campaign to encourage us to eat more fruit and vegetables. The campaign in the UK is called Five a Day.

2

Halloween falls on October 31st each year in North America and other parts of the world. Like many other holidays, Halloween has evolved and changed throughout history. Over 2,000 years ago the Celts based in Northern Ireland believed that October 31st was a time when the living and the dead came together.

Then, the Christian Church named November 1st *All Saints Day* to honor the saints and other people who died for their religion.

Like the Celts, the Europeans of that time also believed that the spirits of the dead would visit the earth on Halloween. So, on that night people wore costumes that looked like ghosts or other evil creatures so that the spirits would not harm them.

The tradition of Halloween was carried to America in the 1830s by the immigrating Europeans. Some of the traditions changed a little, though. People began putting candles inside pumpkins and using them as lanterns. That is why you see Jack 'o lanterns today. These days Halloween is not considered a religious holiday, it is primarily a fun day for kids. Children dress up in costumes and go from house to house. They knock on doors and say, "trick or treat." The owner of each house gives candies or something special to each trick or treater.