

TEACHER'S GUIDE · EVERYDAY ENGLISH

# When is the next day off?

LEVEL
A1 · Beginner

TIME
60 min

SKILLS
Reading · Speaking · Grammar · Vocabulary



### Learning objectives

In this lesson, you can:

- read a real calendar of public holidays
- say dates, days and months in English
- use *on / in / at* with time
- talk about holidays and days off

### Key vocabulary

bank holiday · day off · date · weekday · weekend · month · calendar · first · third · substitute

### Materials

- this worksheet
- web page: *UK bank holidays* (GOV.UK)

## 1 Warm up

SPEAKING

**Look at the pictures. What can you see? How are they connected to the topic? Then answer the questions with your teacher.**



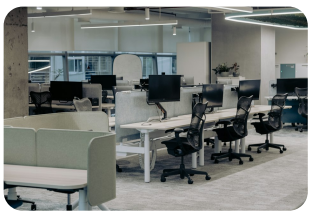
PICTURE A · a calendar



PICTURE B · a day at the beach



PICTURE C · Christmas



PICTURE D · a quiet office

1. What is the date today? What day is it?
2. What do you do on a day off?
3. What is your favourite month? Why?

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## 2 Vocabulary preparation

VOCABULARY

**Part A: Match the words with the definitions.**

calendar (n) | weekday (n) | date (n) | holiday (n) | month (n) | weekend (n)

1. _____ a day when you don't go to work
2. _____ Saturday and Sunday
3. _____ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
4. _____ January, May and December are examples
5. _____ the number of the day and the month, for example 3 May
6. _____ a page or an app with all the days of the year

**Part B: Ordinal numbers. Write the words.**

Example: 1 → *first* (1st)

1. 2 → _____
2. 3 → _____
3. 26 → _____
4. 29 → _____
5. 31 → _____

## 3 Main input: read and learn

READING · GRAMMAR

In the UK, public holidays are called "bank holidays". The UK government publishes the official list. Look at the table for **England and Wales, 2027**.

READING

**UK bank holidays**

GOV.UK (UK government) · official calendar · read the 2027 table (about 1 minute) · free

https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays

**Look at the 2027 table. Answer: How many bank holidays are there in 2027? What day of the week is Good Friday?**

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### Language focus: *on / in / at* with time

Look at these examples about bank holidays and work.

| on | in | at |
|---|---|---|
| days and dates | months, years, seasons | clock times |
| on Monday<br>on 3 May<br>on Christmas Day | in May<br>in 2027<br>in summer | at 9 o'clock<br>at 10.30<br>at lunchtime |

**British and American English:** British people say *at the weekend*; American people say *on the weekend*. Both are correct.

### Practice: Complete the sentences with *at*, *on* or *in*.

1. Good Friday is _____ 26 March.
2. The Summer bank holiday is _____ August.
3. My meeting is _____ 10 a.m.
4. Easter Monday is _____ Monday 29 March.
5. I started this job _____ 2024.

## 4 Reading comprehension

READING

### Part A: Read the 2027 table again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Circle.

1. New Year's Day is on a Friday. T / F
2. Good Friday is in April. T / F
3. Easter Monday is on 29 March. T / F
4. There are two bank holidays in May. T / F
5. The Summer bank holiday is on a Friday. T / F
6. There is a Christmas bank holiday on Monday 27 December. T / F

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**Part B: Complete the table with the date and the day.**

| Bank holiday (2027) | Date | Day |
|---|---|---|
| Early May bank holiday | | |
| Spring bank holiday | | |
| Boxing Day (substitute day) | | |

**Part C: Think and answer.**

1. Read the text under the tables. A bank holiday is on a Saturday. What happens?

2. Do all employers in the UK give paid leave on bank holidays? Find the answer on the page.

3. Write the dates of two public holidays in your country.

## 5 Speaking practice and discussion

SPEAKING

**Part A: Choose TWO cue cards. Talk about each card with your teacher for 1–2 minutes.**

**Cue card 1: My favourite holiday**

- When is it?
- What do I do?
- Who with?

**Cue card 2: My calendar**

- Meetings this week
- Busy days
- Free days

**Cue card 3: Birthdays**

- My birthday
- A family birthday
- A colleague's birthday

**Cue card 4: Holidays in my country**

- How many?
- My favourite
- Special food

**Cue card 5: Days off**

- How many days a year?
- When do I take them?
- Work or rest?



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**Part B: Answer the questions with your teacher. Give reasons and examples.**

1. What is your favourite public holiday in your country, and why?
2. What do you usually do on a day off?
3. When is your next holiday? What are your plans?
4. Is it a good idea to work on public holidays? Why? / Why not?
5. How many days of holiday do you have at work, and when do you take them?

## 6 Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

REVIEW

**Complete the sentences. Then tell your teacher.**

1. Three new words from today: _____
2. One UK bank holiday and its date: _____
3. My birthday is on _____ .
4. My next day off is on _____ .

**Takeaway:** Before you plan a meeting with colleagues in another country, check their public holidays. Many offices are closed on those days.

## + Optional extension / homework

WRITING

**Write 40–60 words with the title "My favourite holiday". Use: *It is on / in… / I usually… / I like it because…***



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**Alternative activity:**

Make a calendar of the public holidays in your country for next year: the date, the day and the name. Present it to your teacher in the next class.

## References

GOV.UK. (2025, November 24). *UK bank holidays*. https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays

**Original materials:** vocabulary, language examples and exercises were written for NATeacher for A1 learners.

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# Teacher's guide

**Learning objectives.** By the end of the lesson, the student can: read dates in a real calendar; say days, months and ordinal numbers; use *on / in / at* with time; talk about holidays and days off.
**Total time:** approx. 60 minutes — Warm up 6 · Vocabulary 7 · Main input 10 · Comprehension 14 · Speaking 18 · Wrap-up 5. The extension is optional homework.

## ▶. Main input: about the resource

**Resource:** *UK bank holidays*, GOV.UK (official UK government calendar, last updated 24 November 2025). Free; no login. https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays

**What to read:** the table "Upcoming bank holidays in England and Wales – 2027" and the short text under the tables (about 1 minute). The page also has tabs for Scotland and Northern Ireland, which have different dates.

**Copyright:** GOV.UK content is published under the Open Government Licence; we show it from the official page so the student uses the real source.

**Key information:** England and Wales, 2027: 1 January (Friday) New Year's Day; 26 March (Friday) Good Friday; 29 March (Monday) Easter Monday; 3 May (Monday) Early May bank holiday; 31 May (Monday) Spring bank holiday; 30 August (Monday) Summer bank holiday; 27 December (Monday) Christmas Day (substitute day); 28 December (Tuesday) Boxing Day (substitute day). If a bank holiday is on a weekend, a weekday becomes a substitute bank holiday, normally the following Monday. Employers do not have to give paid leave on bank holidays.

## 1. Warm up

6 mins.

Show the pictures and elicit words (*calendar, beach, Christmas, office*). Ask the questions. Practise the date today together: "Today is Tuesday, the twentieth of October."

**Possible answers:** "They are about holidays: the calendar, a day at the beach, Christmas and an empty office."
**Support:** write the days of the week on the board first. **Challenge:** ask "What are the dates of your next three meetings?"

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## 2. Vocabulary preparation

7 mins.

The student completes Part A and Part B alone. Check together, say the words aloud and ask the student to repeat the difficult ones.

### Part A

1. holiday
2. weekend
3. weekday
4. month
5. date
6. calendar

### Part B

1. second 2. third 3. twenty-sixth 4. twenty-ninth 5. thirty-first

**Pronunciation:** *Wednesday* /ˈwenzdeɪ/ (the first *d* is silent); *third* /θɜːd/; *twenty-sixth* /ˌtwentiˈsɪksθ/. *Boxing Day* is 26 December in British culture.

## 3. Main input and language focus

10 mins.

Open the page on screen. Make sure the student looks at **2027** for **England and Wales**. The student answers the two gist questions. **Answers:** eight bank holidays; Good Friday is on a Friday (26 March 2027).

Present the language focus in 1–2 minutes: elicit the rule from the examples, then move to the practice.

### Practice

1. on
2. in
3. at
4. on
5. in

**Common mistakes:** “in Monday” → “**on** Monday”; “on May” → “**in** May”; “in 10 o’clock” → “**at** 10 o’clock”. Dates: British English writes and says *3 May* (“the third of May”); American English often uses *May 3* (“May third”). Both are correct.

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## 4. Reading comprehension

14 mins.

The student works alone with the table. Check together and ask the student to say the dates aloud ("the third of May").

### Part A

1. T  2. F (26 March)  3. T  4. T (3 May and 31 May)  5. F (Monday 30 August)  6. T (substitute day)

### Part B

Early May bank holiday: 3 May, Monday · Spring bank holiday: 31 May, Monday · Boxing Day (substitute day): 28 December, Tuesday

### Part C

1. Another weekday becomes the bank holiday — normally the following Monday (a "substitute day"). 2. No. The page says your employer does not have to give you paid leave on bank holidays. 3. Open answer, e.g. "20 July and 7 August."

**Accept:** dates written *3 May*, *May 3* or *3rd May*; short answers for Part C. **Support:** do the first line of Part B together. **Challenge:** ask "Why is Christmas Day on Monday 27 December in 2027?" (25 December 2027 is a Saturday, so the bank holiday moves).

## 5. Speaking practice and discussion

18 mins (cue cards 6 · questions 12).

The student chooses two cards and speaks for 1–2 minutes on each. Then ask the five questions one by one. Let the student finish, then ask follow-up questions: "Why?", "When?", "Who with?"

**Model answer (Q2):** "On a day off I sleep late. In the afternoon I go to the park with my family."
**Evaluate:** correct dates and *on / in / at*; days and months pronounced clearly; answers longer than one sentence; a reason with *because*.
**Correction:** note mistakes while the student speaks and correct 2–3 of them at the end, so you don't interrupt fluency.

## 6. Lesson takeaway and wrap-up

5 mins.

The student completes the sentences and says them aloud. Read the takeaway and ask: "Which holidays do your international colleagues have?"

**Possible answers:** "weekday, calendar, date"; "Easter Monday is on 29 March."; "My birthday is on 14 June."



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## +. Optional extension / homework

Check: 40–60 words; correct *on / in / at*; dates and days; a reason with *because*. Model: "My favourite holiday is Christmas. It is on 25 December. I usually eat with my family at night. I like it because I don't work and I can rest."

## ✓. Did the student reach the objectives?

- Can the student find dates and days in the 2027 table?
- Can the student say ordinal numbers and dates correctly?
- Does the student use *on / in / at* correctly in most sentences?
- Can the student talk about a holiday in 3–4 sentences?

## ✓. Resource verification log

| Resource | Institution / URL | Type · length | Checks (21 Oct 2026) | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK bank holidays | GOV.UK (UK government) https://www.gov.uk/bank-holidays | Official calendar · one table for 2027 (about 1 min) | Page loads; 2027 table for England and Wales matches the exercises; free, no login; suitable for A1; not a language school | **Approved** |

Photos: credits listed in the references (Unsplash). No image links are included in the worksheet.

## References

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