VOCABULARY

Bonfire Night

Do you know what happens in Britain on 5 November? VANESSA CLARK presents language to talk about Bonfire Night.

Do you know the rhyme “Remember, remember, the fifth of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot”? Bonfire Night, or Fireworks Night, commemorates the Gunpowder Plot of 5 November 1605, when Guy Fawkes and his fellow Roman Catholic conspirators plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament, with the Protestant King James I inside. The barrels of gunpowder were discovered, the plot was foiled and the conspirators were executed by the traditional method for traitors — they were hanged, drawn and quartered. Some Catholics prefer not to take part in Bonfire Night events, especially where the traditional “guy” — an effigy of Guy Fawkes — is burned.

For most people, the events of 1605 are just a good excuse to let off some fireworks, to enjoy the heat of a blazing bonfire and to watch the flames leaping into the night sky. The fireworks display lasts for only a few minutes, but it’s the grand finale of the evening. Rockets shoot up into the night sky and explode into a thousand stars. The whizzes and bangs of the fireworks are followed by gasps and cheers from the watching crowd of people.
### Vocabulary

#### Exercise 1
Study the illustration on the opposite page and fill in the spaces below by entering words defined there.

A. a sweet snack: a

B. a big pile of burning wood: a

C. a battery-powered lamp: a

D. a plastic tube filled with fluorescent liquid: a

E. They keep your hands warm: a

F. It stops people going too near the fire: a

#### Exercise 2
Match the different kinds of fireworks (A–D) to their descriptions (1–4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Catherine wheel</th>
<th>1. A small, thin metal stick that gives off pretty little white sparks. You can hold it in your hand.</th>
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<td>B. fountain</td>
<td>2. The classic firework: it shoots up into the air and explodes in a shower of sparks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. sparkler</td>
<td>3. A firework that is fixed on a pole. When lit, it spins around, creating a circle of flying sparks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. rocket</td>
<td>4. A firework that stands on the ground. Sparks spray from the top and fall elegantly to the ground, like water.</td>
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#### Exercise 3
Complete the information given below about the Gunpowder Plot with the correct verbs from the list.

discovered | executed | foiled | plotted | quartered

A group of Catholic men (A) to kill the Protestant King James at the Houses of Parliament on 5 November 1605. However, their barrels of gunpowder were (B), and the plot was (C). Because the conspirators were traitors, they were (D) by an especially violent method: they were hanged, drawn and (E).

### Practice

Now, try the following exercises to practise talking about Bonfire Night.

Answers


Exercise 1

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Answers


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<td>C–1</td>
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Fix (fix)  = befestigen

Pile (pile)  = Stapel

Pole (pole)  = Stange

Spark (spark)  = Funken

Spin (spin)  = drehen