

Conversation Café

Birthdays

Birthdays didn't begin until calendars were created. Egyptians started the party, but just for pharaohs. When they were crowned in ancient Egypt they were considered to have transformed into gods. Greeks added candles to cakes. Moon-shaped cakes were offered to Artemis as a form of tribute to the lunar goddess.

Greeks lit candles and put them on cakes for a glowing effect. Ancient Romans were the first to celebrate birthdays for the common man (but just the men). Female birthdays still weren't celebrated until around the 12th century. Many cultures have coming of age birthdays. In Korea, many celebrate Baek-il (Feast for the 100th day) and Doljanchi (child's first birthday).



BIRTHDAY
TRADITIONS FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

Discussion Questions:

1. How are birthdays celebrated in your country?
2. What are some birthday traditions you know of from other countries?
3. When is your birthday?
How do you like to celebrate your birthday?
4. What is your best birthday memory?
5. What is your worst birthday memory?
6. Have you ever had a surprise birthday party for yourself or someone else?
7. What are some things you like to do for your birthday?
8. Whose birthday do you always celebrate and remember?
9. Do you know of any big events that happened the year you were born?
10. What is the best birthday gift you have ever received?

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’”

Jesus said that we must be born again.

- ❖ Do you know what this means?
- ❖ How can a person be born again?
- ❖ If you have had this experience and don’t mind sharing it, describe how it happened.

Idioms:

Get on in years

Someone who is *getting on in years* is growing old.
My grandmother is getting on in years. She’s no longer able to look after her home without help.

Over the hill

If a person is *over the hill*, they have reached an age when they can no longer perform as well as before.
Gran! You say you’re over the hill, but you’re a super cook!

Put years on

If an event or difficult situation *puts years on someone*, it makes them look or feel much older.
I hardly recognized Mr. Brown. His illness has put years on him.

Rob the cradle

If you *rob the cradle*, you have a romantic relationship with someone who is much younger than yourself.
My uncle Ted is dating a twenty-year-old girl. That’s really robbing the cradle!

idiom: **paint the town red**



meaning: to go out and have a great time

IN YOUR BIRTHDAY SUIT

IDIOMLAND.COM

Meaning

NAKED

WE USED TO GO DOWN TO THE RIVER AND SWIM IN OUR **BIRTHDAY SUITS**