

Hogmanay - a brilliant Scottish tradition!

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Our blogger, Fiona, tells us about New Year in Scotland.

“ New Year in Scotland is called ‘Hogmanay’ (/ˈhɒɡ.mə.neɪ/). In big cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh they celebrate for four or five days! But I live in Stonehaven, a little town in Scotland. Maybe we are a little more quiet and traditional here. We only celebrate for two days. 😊

We spend Hogmanay together with our family and friends. This year, we were at my house with my grandparents and all my cousins. We went to the town centre to watch the fireballs ceremony at midnight. There are big balls of fire made from old newspaper and pieces of clothes. The fireball is on a chain and men and women in traditional clothes swing them around their heads. They walk slowly from the town centre to the harbour. Then they throw the balls into the sea! Then there were fireworks and everybody was singing. It was so cold but that was OK!

After the fireworks, we went back to my house to get warm. But we didn’t stay there. We went *first footing*. It means visiting your friends and neighbours in their houses. You have to take a small gift for the people in the house. It’s like a race because you want give your present first. Usually we give *black bun*, a kind of cake made with fruit. We make it before so it tastes really nice!

In the morning, we went to my grandparents’ house for *saining* (/ˈseɪ.nɪŋ/). It’s a ceremony to purify the house and bring good luck. We sprinkled water in every room, on the beds and on ourselves, too. After that, my gran filled the house with smoke. We were coughing and crying! We opened all the doors and windows to let in fresh air. *Saining* was my favourite part of Hogmanay - but it was really cold when we had breakfast! ”



Reading

1a Write the words which Fiona mentions in her blog.

~~Glasgow~~ Edinburgh Stonehaven *saining*
first footing fireballs ceremony *black bun*

- three places in Scotland: Glasgow, _____, _____
- a special procession: _____
- visiting friends and neighbours: _____
- a kind of cake: _____
- a ceremony on 1st January: _____

1b Look at the text again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

- Hogmanay lasts longer in Stonehaven than in Glasgow or Edinburgh.
 F Hogmanay lasts longer in Glasgow or Edinburgh than in Stonehaven.
- Fiona spent Hogmanay with her family this year.
- The procession goes from the harbour to the town centre.
- After the procession Fiona went to bed.
- You give a cake to your neighbours.
- Fiona's gran opened all the doors and windows.

1c Find the errors, then rewrite the sentences with the correct information.

- The New Year celebration in Scotland is called Hogmanydays.
 The New Year celebration in Scotland is called Hogmanay.
- In Glasgow and Edinburgh they celebrate Hogmanay for one day.

- Stonehaven is in England.

- The fireballs ceremony is before midnight.

- People never give *black bun*.

- First footing* was Fiona's favourite part of Hogmanay.

Writing: Over to you...

2a Read the email and **circle** the correct answer.

We had such a good time for Hogmanay this
 1 **week** / year / month . We went to the town
 2 **school** / centre / **shops** for the fireballs ceremony.
 We didn't wear special 3 **boots** / jackets / clothes
 but I was wearing a warm hat! Fiona 4 **has** / told /
wanted to go home before midnight. She wanted to
 go first footing. But I love fireworks. We visited three
 of our neighbours' 5 **friends** / houses / parties and
 ate a lot of cake! We went to bed at five o'clock –
 we only 6 **sleep** / **slept** / **slept** for two hours. In
 the morning we went to our grandparents' house.
 When we filled the house with smoke it 7 **was** / is /
looks awful! But it was all right after we opened the
 8 **presents** / windows / book.
 Kirstie, 16

2b Choose three New Year's resolutions. Then write a paragraph for each, saying why you chose it.

- Get fit
- Be a better friend
- Learn something new
- Make some money