Unit 4 · Expressing Good Wishes

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **express good wishes**: kind words on a happy day, before a hard task, at a festival
- grammar: **imperatives**, short sentences for rules, instructions and invitations

Song: two wishes

- verse 1: a **birthday wish**: smiles, laughter, joy, a good life, no worries
- verse 2: **good luck for exams**: you worked hard day and night; you will do well even if it is tough
- **May** + plain verb, no -s: *May your birthday **bring** you joy. May he **live** long.*

Reading: Festivals of Nepal

- for each festival: **what**, **who**, **when**, **what people do**

Festival	Who	When	What people do
Buddha Jayanti (Buddha Purnima)	Buddhists	full moon of **Baishakh**	go to monasteries and stupas; pray for peace and **prosperity**; **chant**, **meditate**; decorate **monuments** with flowers (Lumbini, Swayambhu, Boudha)
Eid	Muslims	at the **end of Ramadan** (the month of fasting)	go to the **mosque**, say *namaj*, pray for unity and prosperity; **embrace**; *Eid Mubarak!*
Tihar (Dipawali)	Hindus and many others	**Kartik**, five days (**Yama Panchak**)	worship crows, dogs, the cow and **Laxmi** (lamps), oxen; sisters give brothers tika
Chhath	began in the **Terai** (Mithila, Bhojpur); now all over	**Kartik Shukla Shashthi**, six days after Laxmi Puja	worship **Chhathi Maiya** and the setting and rising **sun**, standing in a river or pond; offer fruit and *prasad*
Christmas	Christians	**25 December**, the birth of **Jesus Christ**	go to church; decorate Christmas trees and lights; give gifts; share food; *Merry Christmas!*

- **Buddha Purnima:** Buddhists believe Siddhartha Gautam was **born**, became **enlightened** and **died** on this one day; born in **Lumbini**; Nepal's traditional year **623 BC**
- **Eid** follows the **moon**: about **11 days earlier** each year, round all the seasons in about 33 years; no fixed Nepali month
- **Tihar's five days:** Kag Tihar (crows) → Kukur Tihar (dogs) → Laxmi Puja (cow, then Laxmi) → Goru Tihar (oxen; Newar **Mha Puja**) → **Bhai Tika** (sisters wish brothers **longevity**)

Key words

Purnima: full moon day.

enlightened: having understood the truth about life.

commemorate: remember with a special day or ceremony.

monastery: where monks live, study and pray.

monument: a building or statue that keeps a memory.

chant: say a prayer again and again, in rhythm, from memory.

meditate: sit quietly with a calm, still mind.

prosperity: success and plenty.

embrace: hug.

longevity: a long life.

devotee: a person who worships with deep love.

Speaking: wishing people well

When	Say	Answer
a birthday	*Happy birthday! Many happy returns of the day!*	*Thank you!*
a festival	*Happy Dashain! Happy Lhosar! Eid Mubarak! Merry Christmas!*	*Thank you. Happy … to you too!*
an exam, a match	*Good luck! All the best!*	*Thank you.*
a journey	*Have a safe journey!*	*Thanks.*
illness	*Get well soon!*	*Thank you.*
an elder's blessing	*May you live long!*	*Thank you.*

- the steps: **greet → wish → thank and wish back**
- *As-Salaam Alaikum!* (peace be upon you) → *Wa-Alaikum-Salaam*
- *Phyaphulla!* (Tamang greeting) → *Phyaphulla!*
- **Lhosar** = new year: Tamang **Sonam** (Magh), Sherpa **Gyalpo** (Phagun), Gurung **Tamu** (Poush 15)
- **Merry Christmas** (also *Happy Christmas*); **Happy New Year**

Grammar: imperatives

- **imperative** = tells someone to do or not do something: rules, instructions, directions, advice, invitations, wishes

Kind	Example
rule	*Put your hand up to ask.*
instruction	*Mix the flour with water.*
direction	*Turn left at the temple.*
advice	*Drink plenty of water.*
invitation	*Come to my house for Tihar!*
wish	*Have a safe journey!*

- start with the **plain verb**, no *you*: *Open the door.*
- not: **Don't** + verb: *Don't forget your lunch.*
- with *be*: *Be quiet. Don't be late.*
- polite: *Please open the door. / Open the door, please.*

Writing: a festival paragraph

- start with the name: *My favorite festival is …*
- one or two sentences each: **who → when → what people do → why you like it**
- **capitals** for festivals, peoples, temples, gods, months: *Mahashivaratri, Hindu, Pashupatinath, Shiva, Phagun*

Project: a festival of our place

- ask elders: name, who, when, what people do; one picture each, a sentence or two under it

Extra bit: ? and ,

- **?** after a question; after a **question tag** (*You speak English, don't you?*); after a question needing no answer (*Who cares?*)
- not after a told question: *I asked where the bathroom was.*
- **comma:**
  - a list of three or more: *blue, green and yellow*
  - a date with a year: *March 17, 1981*
  - a place and the bigger place: *Dhading, Bagmati*
  - a title after a name: *Ramila Karki, M.D.*
  - after *yes, no, well, now*: *Yes, I would love to.*

Listening: Gaura

- a popular festival of **western** Nepal (the far west)
- usually in **Bhadau**
- women worship **Gauri**, Shiva's wife; **women fast** for their husbands' long life
- **Deuda**: danced in a circle, holding hands, to **traditional music**

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ May your birthday brings you joy.
✓ May your birthday **bring** you joy.

✗ You open the door. (an order)
✓ **Open** the door.

✗ Not shout!
✓ **Don't** shout!

✗ Don't to forget.
✓ Don't **forget**.

✗ Don't late!
✓ Don't **be** late!

✗ I asked where the bathroom was?
✓ I asked where the bathroom **was.**