**Test of evaluation**

The shortest day (and the longest night) of the year is called the winter solstice. This day marks the beginning of winter, which is on or around December 21 in the Northern Hemisphere (North America, Europe, Asia, and most of Africa) and on June 21 in the Southern Hemisphere (Australia, nearly all of South America, and the southern part of Africa). After the winter solstice, days become shorter while nights become longer.

The word solstice derives from Latin sol sistere which means "sun standing still". The sun appears so low on the winter solstice that it does indeed look like it is not moving at all.

Because our planet is tilted on the axis (an imaginary line of rotation) for some 23.5 degrees, the two hemispheres get different amounts of sunlight during the year, as Earth keeps moving around the sun.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the December solstice happens when the sun's elevation in the sky is at its lowest. On that day, some cities like Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, receive only 4 hours of daylight. Yet, in the South, places like Melbourne in Australia can enjoy a 15-hour long sunny day.

The solstice has been a special event since the earliest human history. People relied on the solstice to know when animals mate, when to sow crops, or how to distribute their winter reserves of food.

In some cultures, it was an opportunity to make the last large feast of the year, before the harsh winter began. Communities typically had the greatest amount of food and beer to share with each other right at the start of the winter.

The legendary ring of standing stones called Stonehenge is one of the landmark attractions in England. Stonehenge was built in stages, some of them dating back to 5,000 years ago.

Consequently, it was also used for different purposes, one of which was the observance of the winter solstice. The stones had been carefully aligned to give a clear view of the sunset of the winter solstice, as well as of the opposing sunrise of the summer solstice.

Today, gathering at Stonehenge in the early morning of the winter solstice to watch the sun rise over the stones is a very popular event.

The ancient Romans also marked the winter solstice with an event called Brumalia (from Latin bruma for "winter cold").

This festival was celebrated while the Romans lived as pagans. Once Emperor Justinian began to suppress paganism, Brumalia was no longer celebrated.

Brumalia often started in late November and lasted for a month. Usually, many animals were offered as a sacrifice to Saturn, the supreme god, and Ceres, the goddess of agriculture and fertility. After those rituals, people drank and ate all night.

**Comprehension Exercises**

**Vocabulary Questions**

1. What does "pagan" mean?
   1. belonging to a small church
   2. belonging to an ancient Roman community
   3. belonging to a religion that worships multiple gods
2. What does "tilted" mean?
   1. pushed away
   2. moving to incline, leaning
   3. supported
3. What does "align" mean?
   1. arrange in a straight line
   2. refuse to accept something
   3. build something
4. What does "sow" mean?
   1. collect your crops
   2. buy more land for farming
   3. put seeds in the ground so that plants can grow
5. What does "suppress" mean?
   1. end something by force
   2. give money to an organization
   3. motivate someone to become better

Collocation Questions

1. Most families get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the night of Dongzhi.
   1. joined
   2. united
   3. together
2. The Persians believed the evil forces are at their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the Yalda Night.
   1. summit
   2. top
   3. peak
3. On the winter solstice, the sun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very low.
   1. reveals
   2. appears
   3. surfaces
4. Many cultures organized feasts on the winter solstice before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ winter began.
   1. cruel
   2. harsh
   3. hard
5. On the Yalda Night, people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ awake all night.
   1. stayed
   2. kept
   3. remained
6. After the winter solstice, days and nights \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ closer in length.
   1. come
   2. meet
   3. approach
7. During Brumalia, many animals were sacrificed and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the gods.
   1. submitted
   2. offered
   3. **Given**

### **Wh Questions**

1. **Where** does the winter solstice happen in June?

**........................................................................................................................**

1. **Which** gods was Brumalia dedicated to?

**........................................................................................................................**

1. **How** did the Romans celebrate Brumalia after the sacrifice ritual?

**…………………………………………………………………………………………………**

### **Evaluating Statements**

1. Based on the information in this lesson, which statement is **true**?
   1. On the winter solstice, some cities get only 4 hours of daylight.
   2. On the winter solstice, no city gets less than 5 hours of daylight.

### **True or False?**

1. "On December 21, the day lasts for nearly 15 hours in Australia."
   1. True
   2. False
2. "Nowadays, Brunalia is a commonly celebrated holiday in Rome."
   1. True
   2. Fals

**Complete the Conditional Sentences with the correct form (Type I, II or III).**

* If………………………..(earn)  a lot of money I…………………………..(get)  that job.
* If we………………….(listen)  to the radio, we…………………………(hear) the news.
* If he…………………………….(try)  harder,he (reach)…………………………… his goals.
* If she……………………………(hurry/not),we……………………............(miss)  the bus.

**Write four meaningful sentences usingfour differentstypes of adverbs**

* **……………………………………………………………………………………………………**
* **……………………………………………………………………………………………………**
* **……………………………………………………………………………………………………**
* **……………………………………………………………………………………………………**

**Put in the correct preposition choose (In/At/On)l**

* 1. **The weather is often terrible………………London……………**

**January.**

* 1. **It‘s better to get taxi if you are out alone…………… night.**
  2. **She got married …………… September.**
  3. **Lucy is arriving ……………… February …………… the 13th……………eight o’clock.**
  4. **The class is ………………9am.**
  5. **She left London………………the 4th of March.**
  6. **Put the book ………………the table, please.**
  7. **Lucy was standing ………………the bus stop.**
  8. **There is nothing …………………TV tonight.**
  9. **The old man is standing ………………… the bridge.**

**Please after finishing send your copies to this email :**

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**Good Luck**