

Step into Learning



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing and spelling.

Festivals in Ireland

In the summer, there are many festivals around Ireland for people to enjoy. Some festivals are about music, some are about horses, but all of them are about fun and meeting people.

Galway Races

The Galway Races is a famous horse racing festival. It has been going since 1869. It takes place every year in the last week of July. More than 250,000 people visit the Galway Races every year.

The best horses, jockeys, and trainers take part in the races. The biggest race is the **Galway Plate** on Wednesday.

People like to dress well going to the races. Thursday is called **Ladies Day**. Many women wear beautiful hats and special clothes to try to win a prize for being the best dressed.

The festival is not only about racing. Many visitors come to Galway. The pubs, hotels, and restaurants in the city are very busy. People enjoy food, music, singing, and dancing.



Galway Races

Rose of Tralee

The first Rose of Tralee festival was held in 1959. It is named after a famous Irish song. The festival is on for five days and takes place in August every year. Thousands of people visit Tralee from Ireland and other countries. There is music on the streets.

The main event is the Rose of Tralee competition. Young women from all parts of the world take part.

The winner is made the Rose of Tralee for a year. The competition is shown live on RTE (Raidió Teilifís Éireann).



Rose of Tralee

Puck Fair

Puck Fair takes place in Killorglin, County Kerry, on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of August each year. It is one of the oldest festivals in Ireland.

On the first day, a wild, male goat, called a **puck**, is made the King of the Fair. A crown is put on his head, and a lorry takes him around the town in the parade. A girl from the area is picked to be the Queen of the Fair.

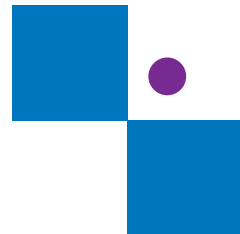
We are not sure why the festival is called after a goat. Some people say a goat brings good luck and a good harvest.

Today, the goat is only held on the first and the last day of the fair, for a short time, before he is let free again.



King Puck

There are also concerts, music on the streets, a funfair, and a big outdoor market.



Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival

The Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival began in the 1800s. It is on every September in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare.

Around 60,000 people go to the festival every year. Many people come to try to meet a partner. There is dancing, music, and singing every day from morning until night.

In the past, many farmers from all parts of Ireland went to the festival after the busy summer season. They met with a matchmaker who helped them find a husband or wife.

A famous matchmaker named Willie Daly had a big book with the name and address of anyone looking for love.

Today, his great-grandson, also called Willie Daly, is the matchmaker in Lisdoonvarna. He still has the famous book.

Some people say that if you hold the book in your hands, it will bring you luck in love and help you find a partner.



Matchmaker, Willie Daly with the famous book

Writing practise



Read the story a few times and then answer these questions.

Question

Answer

1. When are the **Galway Races** on every year? _____
2. What is the biggest race of the week called? _____
3. On what day is “**Ladies Day**”? _____
4. When did the first **Rose of Tralee festival** take place? _____
5. In what county is Tralee? _____
6. In what month is the Rose of Tralee festival on? _____
7. In what county does **Puck Fair** take place? _____
8. When is Puck Fair on every year? _____
9. What is a “**puck**”? _____
10. In what county is Lisdoonvarna? _____
11. In what month is the matchmaking festival on? _____
12. What is the name of the matchmaker? _____

Answers

1. July, 2. Galway Plate, 3. Thursday, 4. 1959, 5. Kerry, 6. August, 7. Kerry, 8. 10, 11, 12 August, 9. A male goat, 10. Clare, 11. September, 12. Willie Daly

Missing letters

The first letter or letters are missing from the words beside each picture.
Fill in the missing letter or letters.

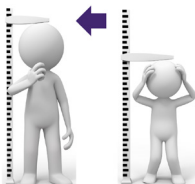
		
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Image sources: Halustd from cocographs, DeelayLabs, piotr290 from Getty Images, Bozena_Fulawka from Getty Images, mothy20 from Getty Images, Danny Smythe, ANDA STD, Kzara Visual, Larisa Gherghe's Images, hbstudio from HB_Studio, Wavebreakmedia from Getty Images, KrakenImages.com, abluecup from Getty Images, Alliance Images, pixelshot.

Word search



Find these words that are hiding below.

small	m	r	r	t	q	x	a	m	r	m	s	t
stand	b	s	m	a	l	l	s	a	k	m	p	a
bring	a	b	t	c	k	u	t	t	j	m	l	l
thing	n	r	h	a	b	u	a	c	d	v	a	l
match	d	i	i	t	u	l	n	h	y	d	y	o
catch	m	n	n	c	p	s	d	x	y	a	a	l
fall	t	g	g	h	c	f	a	l	l	y	p	b
tall	t	i	o	s	t	a	y	l	a	n	d	l
band												
land												
play												
stay												

Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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