

ESL Newsletter

February 2021

Level 1 & 2

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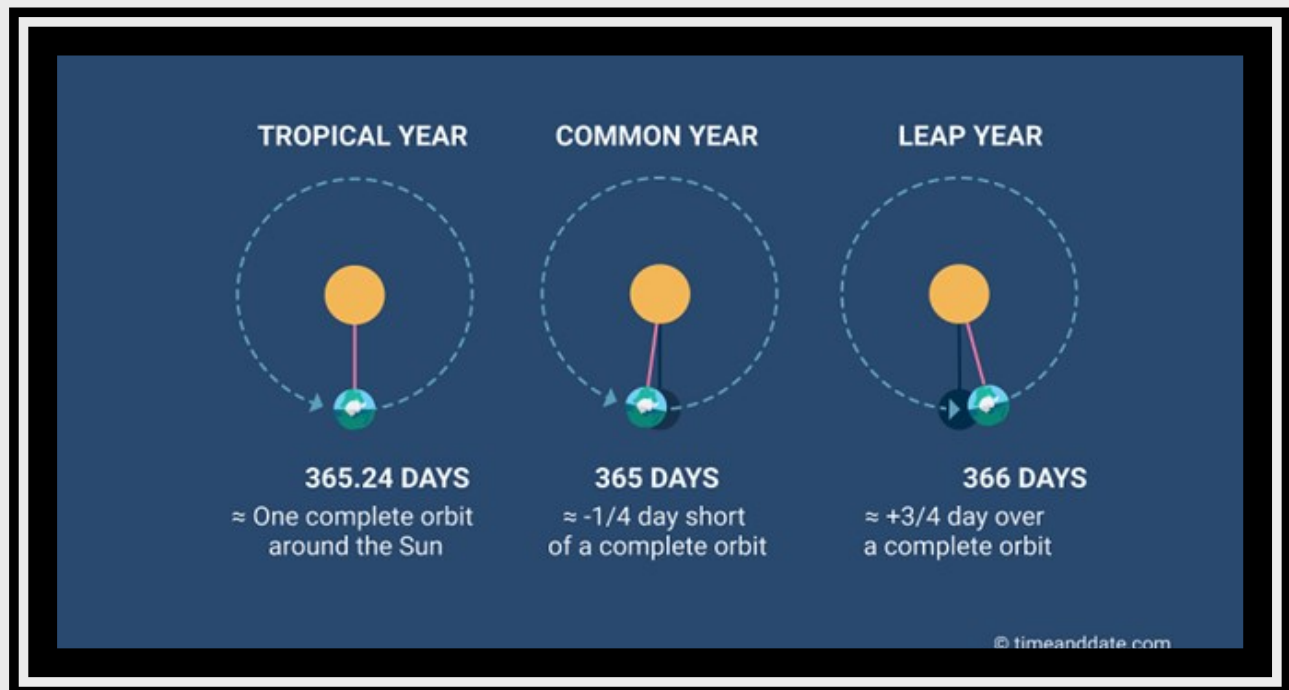
Deissy and Elizabeth's Ideas for Valentine Celebrations

1. *A dinner is a nice detail to celebrate Valentine's Day.*
2. *A surprise for your wife with a big sign and lots of balloons outside your house.*
3. *For my friends, I give them a rose.*
4. *My husband gives me flowers.*
5. *A heart-shaped chocolate represents love in this celebration.*

Valentine's Day Ideas from Jennifer, Gloria, and Beatriz

1. *Rent a helicopter for a ride*
2. *Go to a restaurant and have a nice dinner and also have a cup of wine.*
3. *On Valentine's Day I will buy flowers for my friends.*
4. *Go to the park and make a picnic.*





The History of Leap years and February 29

45 BC Feb 29, the first Leap Day was recognized by proclamation of Julius Caesar. The **Julian calendar**, which was named after him, had only one rule: any year evenly divisible by four would be a leap year.

In 1752 the Julian calendar, was replaced by Gregorian calendar because it did not properly reflect the actual time it takes the Earth to circle once around the Sun. The earth takes 365.25 solar days to revolve around the sun or 365 days 6 hours 9 minutes and 9.76 seconds. The extra 0.25 factor is considered by adding 1 extra day to every 4th year.

For women, February 29th can also be a very successful day, as once every four years on the 29th of February they have the “right” to propose to a man. 1288 Feb 29, Scotland made it legal for women to propose to men. The Scottish Parliament passed a Leap Year Act whereby women could propose to men.

February comes from the Latin word *februum* (purification) and *februa*, which means “purification”. It is part of preparations for the coming of spring.



People born on a leap year day — February 29 — are often called “leaplings” or “leapers.” But instead of waiting every four years to celebrate their birthdays, most blow out their candles on February 28 or March 1.



Harriet Tubman

ESL Level 1 AM

Harriet Tubman was
She was enslaved, and



born in 1820 in Maryland.
she was treated very badly.

The Underground Railroad, a group of people who helped slaves get to the North, helped her escape. Harriet went back to the South secretly many times and helped other people escape, even though it was very dangerous. During the Civil War, she worked as a nurse and a spy for the Union army. After the Civil War, she worked for equal rights for women. She died in 1913.

10 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW

1. The name of February comes from Latin word februum, which means purification. Historically, mid-February was the time for Februa, a Roman purification ritual that is very similar to today's practice of spring cleaning.

2. February is the only month that can pass without having a full moon.

3. February is one of the most frequently misspelled words in the English language.

4. February has been Black History Month for more than 40 years.



5. February 2 is a Groundhog Day based on a German superstition. If the groundhog comes out from hibernation and it's a sunny day and sees its shadow, six more weeks of wintery weather is predicted.



6. The first Sunday in February is Super Bowl Sunday. It wasn't always like that until 2001, the game was played in January.



7. The chances of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. People born on a



leap day can be called a “leaper.”

8. Presidents’ Day is celebrated on the 3rd Monday of February. President’s Day was created by an act of Congress in 1879 to honor George Washington on his birthday, which was February 22nd.



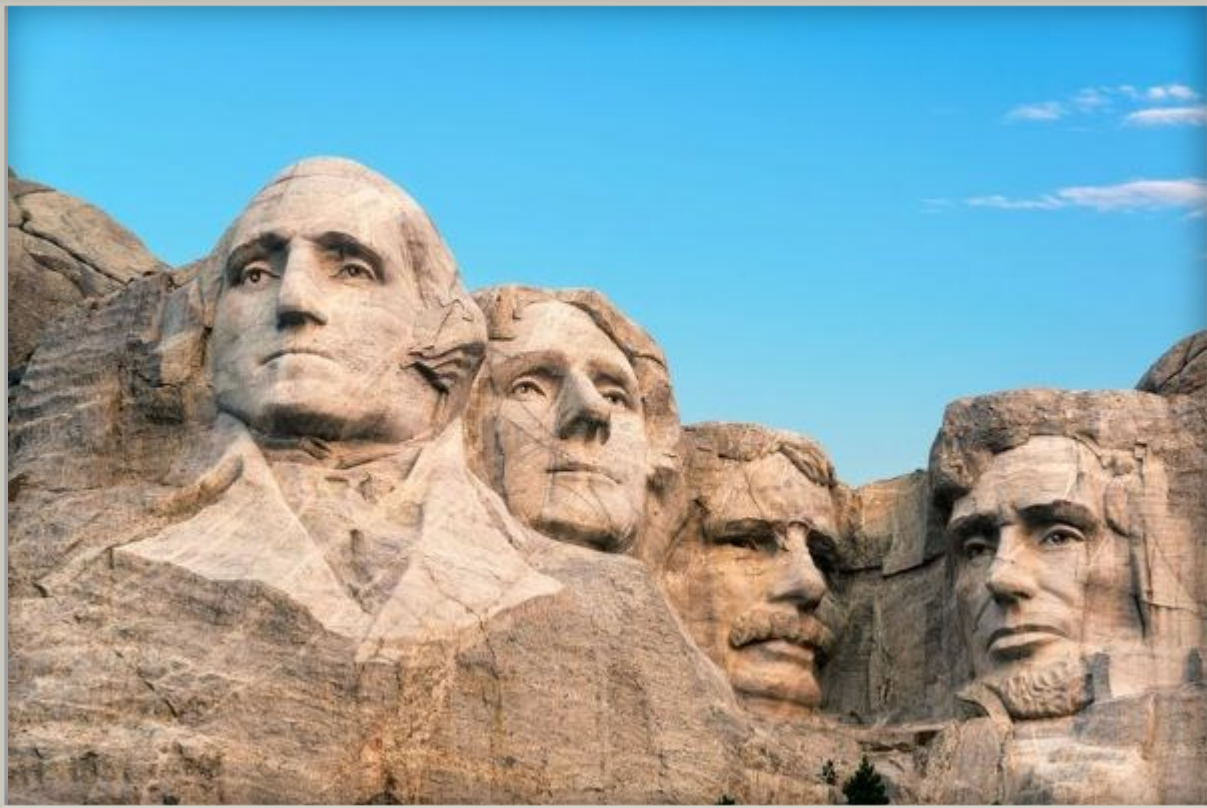
9. Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 14th but it did not start on a romantic note. According to historians, it began as religious fertility festival in ancient Rome.



10. February is a month of the following that you may not know.

American Heart Month
Canned Food Month
Grapefruit Month
Hot Breakfast Month
National Snack Month

Created by Level 2 Students
February 2021



A Lesson from Mount Rushmore

We recently celebrated Presidents' Day and it always makes me think of Mount Rushmore. Mount Rushmore is the famous statue honoring four early U.S. Presidents. It's carved into a mountain in South Dakota and is one of the most beautiful places in our country.

There's an important lesson we can learn from Mount Rushmore too. We only see the four faces of the four Presidents. The original idea, however, was to make the monument much larger. The intention was to carve the four leaders from the waist up. However, it took so long to do the carving that the sculptors decided to only complete the four heads. If you look closely at George Washington, you can see the outline of his shirt and jacket. The bodies were started, but were never completed.

This is a good lesson for all our students. Something can still be beautiful even if it's not completely finished. Something can still be excellent even if it's not perfect. You can still be fluent in English even if your spelling, grammar, and punctuation is not one hundred percent perfect too.

Level 2 PM

BURBANK HIGH SCHOOL

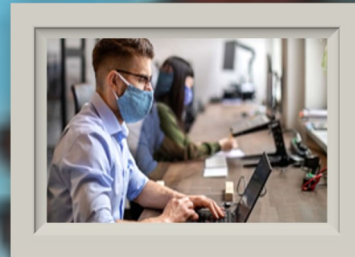
Inspired by John Krasinki's "Some Good News" YouTube video messages, our ESL class discussed one good thing that happened today. Here are reports on "One Good Thing Today".

Provided by Maraarita Puzankova



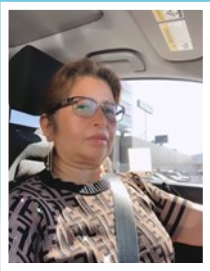
"I passed my Driver's test!"

Provided by Jesus Hernandez



I'm working!

Provided by Gladys Escobar



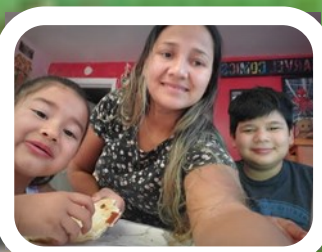
I am thankful to be alive. I have work and my family is fine.

Provided by



I played a lot with my son today!

Provided by Carla Alvarenga



"I stayed with my family. I played with my children.