



From: way2go! Writing & Language in use B1/B1+

LANGUAGE IN USE

1 Read the prompt, then do the task below.

An online magazine for teenagers is running a series of articles about popular customs and traditions in families across the globe. Siobhan, whose father is from Ireland, decides to write a contribution.

In her article she:

- explains why her family has a special celebration on 17 March
- describes the special traditions they have invented
- specifies why she likes her family's celebration

Writing tip

Use the **bullet points** in the prompt to help you **structure your text**. The three **paragraphs** should be **the same length**.

Read Siobhan's article. Some words are missing. Complete the text by writing one word for each gap (1–9) in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

An Irish-Austrian celebration

(A) We live in Austria, though what I am going to write about is not an Austrian tradition, but a special tradition in my family for celebrating St Patrick's Day.

(B) St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and on 17 March, Irish people all over the (0) _____ celebrate St Patrick's Day with their families and friends. In the USA, there are parades in big cities, and in Chicago, the water of the (1) _____ that runs through the city

is turned green for the day because green is the national (2) _____ of Ireland. We don't have such traditions in Austria, although many people like to go to Irish pubs and listen to Irish folk (3) _____ on St Patrick's Day.

(C) My dad is from Ireland, and when I was little, he (4) _____ food colouring to make green apple juice for me on St Patrick's Day as a joke. This has now become a family tradition. He has also (5) _____ a special meal that we have every year. It is based on the (6) _____ of the Irish flag (green, white and orange), so we eat cabbage, parsnips and carrots.

(D) I like our celebration because it is fun to make the food together. We also (7) _____ my cousins in Ireland to video-chat with them on St Patrick's Day and (8) _____ photographs to my aunts and uncles. Our celebration is not an old Irish tradition, (9) _____ it is special, and I enjoy it every year.

(E) Many people who have moved to Austria have brought their customs with them or invented their own celebrations, just like my family. Just ask them – they will be happy to tell you all about it.





0	world	5	
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	

OVER TO YOU!

Does your family have a special celebration? Write about how it started and why you like it. Download the complete article. You can use paragraphs (C) and (D) as a model.

WRITING 2

An article about culture

Read the article describing three important elements of Irish culture. Complete it with the expressions.

and did you know that ▪ because they spread stereotypes about Irish people ▪
 but they aren't traditions here ▪ don't believe everything you read about it online ▪
 for example ▪ is known and loved all over the world ▪ you may have heard of

Irish culture – the real deal

Many articles on the culture of Ireland irritate me greatly (1) _____. There is just so much more to Irish culture than many people think!

(2) _____, literature plays a big role in the culture of Ireland. This little island has given birth to some of the greatest writers and poets of our time. (3) _____ Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, and James Joyce, who is believed to be one of the greatest writers who ever lived.

Music is another big part of Irish culture. Traditional Irish folk music played on Irish instruments (4) _____. Today, many different types of Irish music exist, from old Irish songs to more modern pop and rock music. Whatever your taste in music, there's no shortage of Irish tunes!

(5) _____, although English is the dominant language in Ireland, there is another language which also has the status of an official language? Irish ('Gaeilge') was once spoken by people all over Ireland, and even today, it is the first language for people in some rural areas, the so-called Gaeltacht regions.

I hope you've become interested in Irish culture now, but

(6) _____.

There are a lot of 'Irish traditions' on the internet that really aren't traditions that we follow in Ireland. They *might* be Irish traditions that are followed by Irish Americans,

(7) _____.

Writing tip
 Make sure **the first sentence of every paragraph** introduces the **main idea** of that paragraph!



OVER TO YOU!

Download the complete article. Then use the phrases in the box above to write an article about misconceptions about Austrian culture.

**LANGUAGE
IN USE****1** Key: **1** river, **2** colour, **3** music, **4** used, **5** invented/created, **6** colours, **7** call/contact, **8** send/email, **9** but**Sample text:****An Irish-Austrian celebration**

(A) We live in Austria, though what I am going to write about is not an Austrian tradition, but a special tradition in my family for celebrating St Patrick's Day.

(B) St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and on 17 March, Irish people all over the world celebrate St Patrick's Day with their families and friends. In the USA, there are parades in big cities, and in Chicago, the water of the river that runs through the city is turned green for the day because green is the national colour of Ireland. We don't have such traditions in Austria, although many people like to go to Irish pubs and listen to Irish folk music on St. Patrick's Day.

(C) My dad is from Ireland, and when I was little, he used food colouring to make green apple juice for me on St. Patrick's Day as a joke. This has now become a family tradition. He has also invented a special meal that we have every year. It is based on the colours of the Irish flag (green, white and orange), so we eat cabbage, parsnips and carrots.

(D) I like our celebration because it is fun to make the food together. We also call my cousins in Ireland to video-chat with them on St. Patrick's Day and send photographs to my aunts and uncles. Our celebration is not an old Irish tradition, but it is special, and I enjoy it every year.

(E) Many people who have moved to Austria have brought their customs with them or invented their own celebrations, just like my family. Just ask them – they will be happy to tell you all about it.

WRITING 2 **Key:** 1 because they spread stereotypes about Irish people, 2 For example, 3 You may have heard of, 4 is known and loved all over the world, 5 And did you know that, 6 don't believe everything you read about it online, 7 but they aren't traditions here

Sample text:

Irish culture – the real deal

Many articles on the culture of Ireland irritate me greatly because they spread stereotypes about Irish people. There is just so much more to Irish culture than many people think!

For example, literature plays a big role in the culture of Ireland. This little island has given birth to some of the greatest writers and poets of our time. You may have heard of Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, and James Joyce, who is believed to be one of the greatest writers who ever lived.

Music is another big part of Irish culture. Traditional Irish folk music played on Irish instruments is known and loved all over the world. Today, many different types of Irish music exist, from old Irish songs to more modern pop and rock music. Whatever your taste in music, there's no shortage of Irish tunes!

And did you know that, although English is the dominant language in Ireland, there is another language which also has the status of an official language? Irish ('Gaeilge') was once spoken by people all over Ireland, and even today, it is the first language for people in some rural areas, the so-called Gaeltacht regions.

I hope you've become interested in Irish culture now, but don't believe everything you read about it online. There are a lot of 'Irish traditions' on the internet that really aren't traditions that we follow in Ireland. They might be Irish traditions that are followed by Irish Americans, but they aren't traditions here.