

It Was a Blast!

Festivals & Holidays

-Teacher's Insights -

Introduction: What festival do you think the paragraph below talks about?

This festival is unique. It is world-famous for its masks, which are incredible! They are beautifully detailed. Generally, the masks can be made of leather, porcelain, or a special type of glass. One traditional type of mask is hand-painted with gold paint. Some of them are quite sinister; for example, the Plague Doctor represents seventeenth-century doctors who wore scary masks with long beaks.

The festival has a long tradition which dates back to Roman times. Today, people wear **costumes**, play **live music**, walk in **parades**, watch theatre **performances**, and **celebrate** in the streets.

This refers to Venice Carnival. If you have a screen or a sharing one, you can show pictures to the students.

Vocabulary Builder: Match the pictures below with the vocabulary.

barbecue



confetti



crowd



loudspeaker



show



lights



tent



masks



balloons



face paint



fireworks



sparklers



Expression: Decide if the following refer to **positive**, **neutral**, or **negative** experiences.

- it was great fun · it could have been better · it was awesome · I got covered in mud; I hated it ·
- I loved the costumes · the experience was horrible · it wasn't bad, I guess · I had the time of my life ·
- I'm definitely going back next year · the city stank · the atmosphere was amazing · I hated every second ·
- it was okay, but I wouldn't rush back · I had a great time · I really enjoyed it · it wasn't anything special ·
- it was a bit dull · I partied the night away · I've been to funerals that were more exciting · it was a blast ·

Speaking: Think of a well-known event or festival that you have attended...

...and, without saying which festival it was, describe it. Your classmates will have to guess what festival you are talking about. You can encourage lower level students to ask questions, or just use simple phrases such as: It is in Spain. It is in summer.

Once someone has guessed what festival you are talking about, give them the opportunity to ask you a few more questions about it.

If you have extra time, ask students what festival, event, concert, etc. they would most like to attend and why.