



VALENTINE'S DAY



Read the text about Valentine's Day and do the given tasks.

Valentine's Day, or St Valentine's Day, is celebrated every year on 14 February. It's the day when people show their **affection** for another person (or people!) by sending **anonymous** cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love. And traditionally on Valentine's Day in a leap year - every four years - women can propose marriage to their lovers!



The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was. The most popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a **priest** from Rome in the third century AD. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine thought this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was sentenced to death and thrown in **jail**. There, he fell in love with the jailor's **blind** daughter. His love and belief in God cured her blindness, and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February he sent her a love letter signed "From your Valentine".

The first Valentine message (apart from the one St Valentine wrote himself!) is thought to be a poem from Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife in 1415. He was captured at the Battle of Agincourt and was imprisoned in the Tower of London to await **execution**. But Valentine's Day didn't become popular in the UK until the 17th century. By the 18th century it was traditional for people to **swap** handwritten messages of affection. Printed cards soon replaced these, making it easier for people to say "I love you" secretly.



Valentine's Day is a very old tradition, thought to have originated from a **pagan** fertility festival. The Romans had a festival called Lupercalia in the middle of February, officially the start of their springtime. As part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. They'd be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival and sometimes they'd even get married! The Christian church decided they wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember the death of St Valentine too. Gradually, St Valentine's name started to be used mainly by men to express their feelings to those they loved.

Nowadays, Valentine's Day is **massive**, with celebrations of love worldwide from India to Iceland. But it's not just about sending messages to people you love - you can also just say you care! In the UK, a massive amount of money is spent on what some say is the most romantic day of the year: 22 million spent on flowers, 7 million red roses are sent, 12 million cards are sent. But in 2001, text messaging exploded, with around 30 million WUBMV messages sent! And according to research: half of all mobile users expect Valentine's txt msgs from loved ones, one in four use txt msgs to ask someone out on 14 February, one in four have sent **soppy** messages to wrong person! So, have a happy Valentine's Day but remember: don't feel left out if you don't get a card - it's the giving that counts!



Ex. 1. Read the text and give each paragraph the most suitable headline.

How do people celebrate now? / When did card sending start? / How did it become a celebration? / What is Valentine's Day? / Why is it called Valentine's Day?

Ex. 2 Read the text and write what do these numbers refer to ?

14	
1415	
18th	
7 million	
22 million	
30 million	

Ex. 3. Look at the highlighted words and match them with their definitions?



1.	affection	.....	a. to make an exchange
2.	anonymous	.....	b. the carrying out or undergoing of a sentence of death
3.	priest	.....	c. impressive or imposing in quality
4.	jail	.....	d. excessively sentimental
5.	blind	.....	e. irreligious or hedonistic
6.	execution	.....	f. A tender feeling toward another; fondness
7.	swap	.....	g. a prison, for the detention of persons awaiting trial
8.	pagan	.....	h. unable to see
9.	massive	.....	i. without any name
10.	soppy	.....	j. he/she has the authority to administer religious rites

Ex. 4. Read the question and answer them.

1. What is the article about?
2. When is Valentine's Day
3. when can women propose to men?
4. Who was Valentine?
5. Who was Claudius?
6. Why was Valentine sentenced to death?
7. What was the first Valentine message?
8. What was Lupercalia?
9. Where is Valentine's Day celebrated nowadays?
10. What people do on that day?

Ex. 5. Use the words from the text to describe the given pictures.



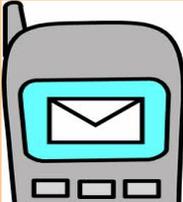
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Ex. 6. Decide which answer is the best. "This text is from a(n):"

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|------------------------|------------|
| a. e-mail | d. advert |
| b. extract from a book | e. article |
| c. letter | f. leaflet |