

KeeKee's Guide to

New Year Celebrations



Around the World



NEW YEAR TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

There are different New Year traditions and customs from around the world, all to welcome a healthy, lucky New Year. Here are some traditions from around the world you can try with your family at home.



Adventure Awaits
in the New Year!

KeeKee

TRAVELING SUITCASE



Origin: Colombia

People in Colombia walk around the block with an empty suitcase as the clock strikes midnight to ensure the new year is full of travel and adventure.

Also, when midnight strikes, they start the year on the right foot by literally taking the first step of the year using their right foot.

Feliz Año Nuevo!

(Feh-LEEZ AH-nyo NWEH-vo)



GOOD LUCK GRAPES



Origin: Spain



In Spain, New Year's Eve, or *Nochevieja*, is celebrated with a tradition called *las doce uvas de la suerte* (the twelve grapes of luck). At midnight, people in Spain eat twelve grapes, one for each clock's chime, to bring good luck for each month of the new year.

Feliz Año Nuevo!

(Feh-LEEZ AH-nyo NWEH-vo)



LUCKY PIGS

Origin: Austria

In Austria, pigs are a symbol of good luck. People often give gifts of marzipan candy or chocolate pigs.

Frohes Neues Jahr!

(FROH-es NOY-es YAR)





RED UNDERWEAR



Origin: Italy

Italians have the tradition of wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve to bring love and luck in the new year. In medieval times, red was believed to ward off witches and evil spirits.

Buon anno!

(BWO-nan-NO!)



FIRST-FOOTING



Origin: Scotland

Scotland's New Year's Eve celebration, *Hogmanay*, includes the tradition of "first-footing." According to the custom, the first person who crosses the front door of a person's home in the new year should bring a gift of luck.



Happy New Year!

12 ROUND FRUITS



Origin: Philippines

It's popular in Filipino culture to celebrate the new year by serving 12 round fruits, like apples, melons, oranges, and grapes. The round shape symbolizes coins, representing prosperity and wealth for each month of the coming year. Many families display the fruit on their dining table; some eat 12 round fruits at midnight.

Manigong Bagong Taon!

(Ma-nee-GONG Ba-gong Ta-ON)



SALT SPRINKLE

Origin: Turkey



In Turkey, sprinkling salt on your doorstep as soon as midnight strikes is good luck. It is said to promote peace and prosperity throughout the new year.

Mutlu yıllar!

(Moot-loo YUH-lahr)

SLURPING SOBA NOODLES

Origin: Japan

People in Japan eat soba noodles just before midnight on New Year's Eve. The long soba noodles symbolize crossing from one year to the next. And as it's an easily cut noodle, it signifies letting go of the past year before starting fresh in the new year.

Watching the first sunrise of the year, known as *hatsu-hinode* (first sunrise), is considered lucky in Japan. Many people climb hills or visit coastal areas to witness it.

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu!

(ah-keh-mah-SHI-teh oh-MEH-deh-TOH goh-zah-ee-MAHS)



OCEAN OF WHITE FLOWERS

Origin: Brazil

The New Year's Eve tradition in Brazil is called Réveillon. Many Brazilians wear white to symbolize prosperity and gather on the beach to offer white flowers and candles to Iemanjá, the Goddess of the Sea. If the offering floats out to sea, she has accepted it, and you will have a good year.

Feliz Año Novo!

(Feh-LEEZ Ah-noh NOH-voh)

POMEGRANATE SMASH

Origin: Greece

In Greece, for New Year's, people have a tradition of hanging a pomegranate on their front door starting at Christmas, leaving it up until the New Year. Then, a family member smashes the pomegranate at the front door to bring good luck and happiness to their home. The more scattered seeds, the better the luck is believed to be. Some do this at midnight on New Year's Eve, and others in the new year after church. (Kids - trust KeeKee - check with your parents before exploding a pomegranate on your floors).

Kali protohronia!

(KAH-lee pro-toh-HRO-nee-ah)



CRASH!



SMASH!

SMASHING PLATES

Origin: Denmark

A tradition in Denmark known as *Kattehale* involves throwing and breaking old plates and glasses against the doors of friends and family. It's a way to show you love them. The more tableware you throw, the more you care. The smashing noise is believed to ward off evil spirits, allowing for a prosperous new year.

Godt nytår!

(Goth NYT-or!)



PAPER LANTERNS

Origin: China

In China, paper lanterns are lit and released into the sky on New Year's Eve as a symbol of letting go of the old and embracing the new.

Xin nián kuài lè!

(SHEEN knee-ANN kwai LER)



GOOD LUCK PEAS & GREENS

Origins: United States

In the Southern United States, people eat black-eyed peas and greens for good luck and prosperity in the new year. The peas, with their coin-like shape, symbolize wealth, and the greens represent money.

Happy New Year!

KISSING AT MIDNIGHT



The midnight kiss tradition dates back to English and German folklore. The idea is that the kiss will set the tone for your relationship in the coming year.



Happy New Year



Have A Happy New Year



Happy New Year



Happy New Year! 

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