

# CELEBRATIONS

## Firsts

### Teacher's notes

**Age:** Teenagers/Adults

**Level:** Pre-intermediate (A2) - Intermediate (B1)

**Time:** 30 minutes



The first 'getaway' car was used by thieves. (1901)

The first round-the-world balloon flight was made. (1999)

A mouse was first used to control a computer. (1968)

Mount Everest was first climbed. (1953)

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. do a quiz about when things happened for the first time;
2. talk about personal firsts.

**Language focus:** saying dates; past simple questions; past simple passive

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student

### Procedure

1. Tell students they are going to do a quiz about when things happened for the first time.
2. Divide the class into teams. Hand out copies of the worksheet and direct students to Exercise 1. Students complete the chart with the year that they think the things happened.
3. Check answers as a class and award points according to the scoring scheme. See which team has the most points at the end.

### Key:

The first television commercial was shown in the United States. (1941)

The first yellow jersey was worn in the Tour de France. (1919)

Corn flakes were served for the first time. (1897)

The first issue of Time Magazine was published. (1923)

Man first stepped on the moon. (1969)

The first section of the London Underground opened. (1863)

The first Valentine message was sent. (1477)

Joan Bazely became the first woman football referee. (1976)

Albert Berry made the first-ever parachute jump. (1912)

The first celluloid film was presented by the Lumière brothers. (1895)

The World Wide Web was first introduced. (1992)

An artificial heart was used for the first time. (1952)

The first black actor won an Oscar. (1964)

Dr John Pemberton first produced Coca-Cola. (1886)

The first printed book was published in China. (868)

Los Angeles appointed the first-ever policewoman in America. (1910)



**TECH TIP:** As a follow-up activity, you could ask students to research more historical firsts and construct their own version of the quiz from Exercise 1 for other students, using a website such as [www.biographyonline.net/famous-firsts/](http://www.biographyonline.net/famous-firsts/). Or, as a homework activity, you could ask students to pick one of the firsts they've learned about and write a paragraph about it – why not get them to post their research in a class blog, and encourage their fellow students to read and comment?

4. Tell students that they are now going to talk about the first time they did things in their own lives. Tell students to look at Exercise 2 and read through the questions. For lower-level classes, you could suggest they answer the questions individually first, taking brief notes to help them.
5. Students should work in pairs and use the questions to interview each other. They should be encouraged to ask follow-up questions each time. For example: 'When was the first time you went abroad?', 'Where did you go?', 'Who did you go with?', 'Did you have a good time?', etc.
6. In their pairs, students write two more questions about personal firsts. Ask them to then combine with another pair to form a group of four. Each group should then ask and answer their four new questions. If there is time, you could ask groups to swap questions once they are finished.
7. Each group reports any funny or interesting stories to the class.

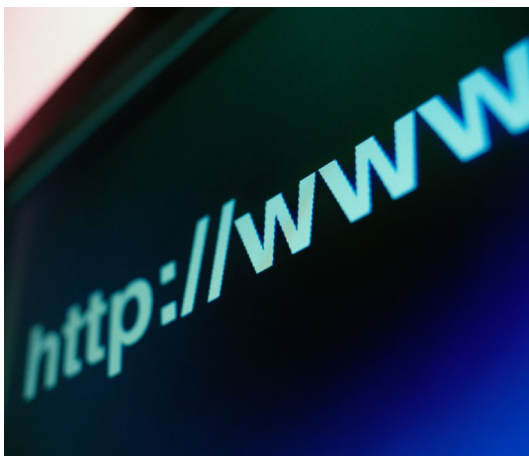
# CELEBRATIONS

## Firsts

### Worksheet

#### Exercise 1: The Firsts Quiz

In the 'firsts' quiz you have to name the year in which certain things happened for the first time. Read each sentence and then write your answers in the answer table. We've put in some of the numbers to help you! When you've finished, check your answers and add up your score using the method below.



	4	The first television commercial was shown in the United States.
	9	The first yellow jersey was worn in the Tour de France.
8		Cornflakes were served for the first time.
1		The first issue of Time Magazine was published.
9		Man first stepped on the moon.
	3	The first section of the London Underground opened.
	7	The first Valentine message was sent.
1		Joan Bazely became the first woman football referee.
	2	Albert Berry made the first-ever parachute jump.
8		The first celluloid film was presented by the Lumière brothers.
9		The World Wide Web was first introduced.
	5	An artificial heart was used for the first time.
	4	The first black actor won an Oscar.
	8	Dr John Pemberton first produced Coca-Cola.
8		The first printed book was published in China.
	0	Los Angeles appointed the first-ever policewoman in America.
1		The first 'getaway' car was used by thieves.
	9	The first round-the-world balloon flight was made.
9		A mouse was first used to control a computer.
	3	Mount Everest was first climbed.

#### How to score:

Correct millennium: 1 point

Correct century: 2 points

Correct decade: 3 points

Correct year with the decade: 4 points

# CELEBRATIONS

## Exercise 2: Personal firsts

Use these questions to talk about your firsts. Work in pairs, and ask and answer the questions. When you have finished, invent two more questions together.

1. When was the first time you went abroad?

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2. Who was your first English teacher?

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3. Where was the first house you lived in?

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4. What was the first film you saw at the cinema?

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5. When did you first use the internet? What for?

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6. What was the first book you ever bought?

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7. Who was the first person you fell in love with?

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8. When was the first time you used a mobile phone?

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9.

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10.

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