



<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/history-kids/mardi-gras-kids/>

EXERCISE 1: Watch the video and try to fill in the gaps with a suitable word.

New Orleans, Louisiana, known for ⁽¹⁾music, quaint ⁽²⁾ and a ⁽³⁾ party called Mardi Gras. But the celebration is far ⁽⁴⁾ than the city. The ⁽⁵⁾ of Mardi Gras stretched all the way back to ⁽⁶⁾ Rome and ⁽⁷⁾ festival of ⁽⁸⁾, feasting and merrymaking. As ⁽⁹⁾ spread through Europe, some pagan festivals turned into a ⁽¹⁰⁾ holidays and the Roman celebration was ⁽¹¹⁾ as Carnival. Carnival comes from the Latin words Carnevale meaning “farewell to the flesh” that’s because Carnival leads up to the season of Lent when ⁽¹²⁾ traditionally fast, ⁽¹³⁾ and ⁽¹⁴⁾ eating ⁽¹⁵⁾ Carnival is the last chance for ⁽¹⁶⁾ to let their hair down before the ⁽¹⁷⁾ days of Lent begin in earnest.

⁽¹⁸⁾ immigrants ⁽¹⁹⁾ the Carnival traditions with them when they ⁽²⁰⁾ New Orleans in ⁽²¹⁾ Here the festive season opens on the ⁽²²⁾night after Christmas and builds to the grand finale of Mardi Gras. In French, Mardi Gras literally means ⁽²³⁾ from the tradition of using up all the ⁽²⁴⁾ and other fats in the kitchen before Lent begins the next day on “Ash ⁽²⁵⁾”.

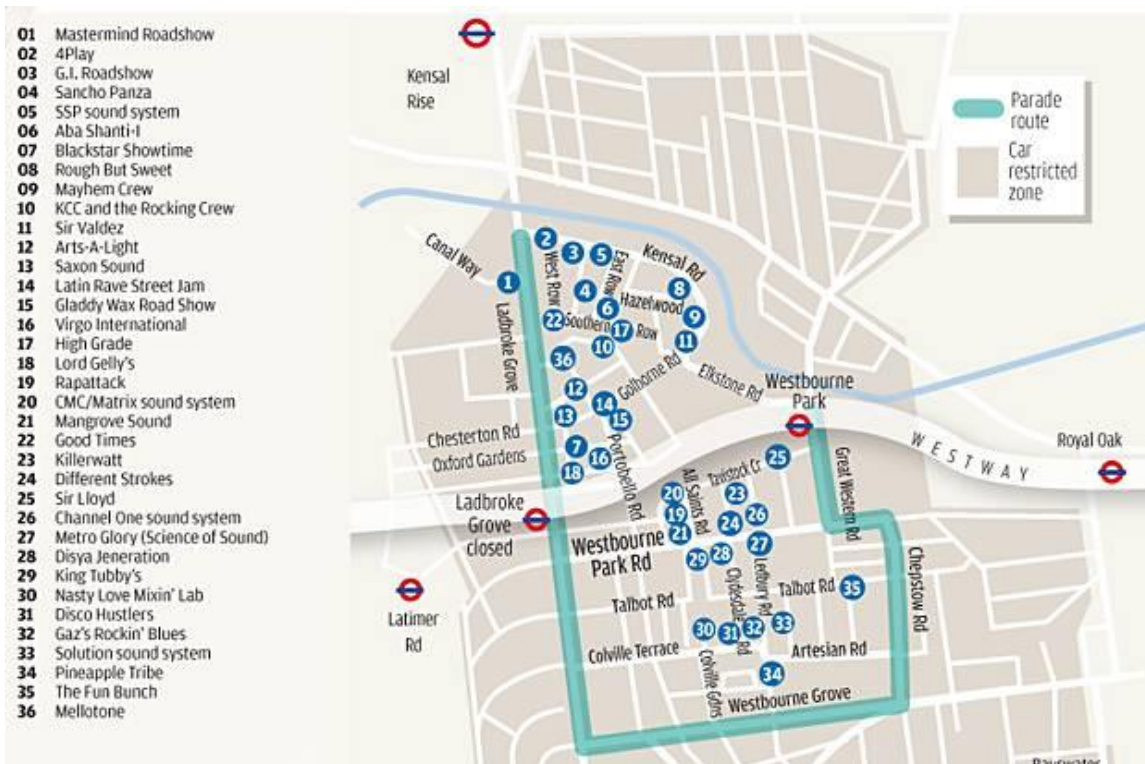
Back in Europe, Mardi Gras meant hiding behind a ⁽²⁶⁾ and dancing at costume balls but New Orleans put its own spin on tradition. In ⁽²⁷⁾, a secret society called the **Mystick Krewe of Comus** staged a ⁽²⁸⁾ with floats. Soon, other secret krewes were formed adding their own floats and the modern Mardi Gras was born. Today, New Orleans Mardi Gras celebration is the biggest in the US, attracting more than ⁽²⁹⁾ people each year. The city is decked out in traditional colours chosen in ⁽³⁰⁾ : ⁽³¹⁾ symbolizing justice; ⁽³²⁾ representing faith and gold for ⁽³³⁾ These colours also decorate the ⁽³⁴⁾ of King cakes. The custom dates back to Medieval France where the cakes were baked with little favours like a ⁽³⁵⁾ or a bean inside and served on twelfth night honoring the three Kings who visited the infant Jesus. In New Orleans, the ⁽³⁶⁾ now hide a small ⁽³⁷⁾ baby and whoever gets the baby in their slice has to buy the next King cake but no matter how many people throng the streets on Mardi Gras, the celebration officially ends at ⁽³⁸⁾ Fat Tuesday gives way to Ash ⁽³⁹⁾ and the beads and ⁽⁴⁰⁾ are put away until Carnival season comes again.



EXERCISE 2: Match words from the text with the definitions below. Pay attention to the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective ...)

Festive or happy activity. (<i>noun</i>)	
To interpret an event to make it seem favorable or beneficial to oneself or one's cause (idiomatic phrase). (<i>verb</i>)	
To finish (a supply); consume completely. (<i>verb</i>)	
Having an old-fashioned or unusual quality or appearance that is usually attractive or appealing	
A private organization staging festivities (as parades) during Mardi Gras in New Orleans (<i>noun</i>)	
To gather in a crowd or in great numbers (<i>verb</i>)	
The soft part of the body of an animal or human, esp. muscular tissue, as distinct from bone and viscera. (<i>noun</i>).	
Decorated (<i>participle</i>).	
A large formal gathering/meeting for social dancing (old-fashioned <i>noun</i>).	
A motor vehicle used to carry an exhibit in a parade (<i>noun</i>).	
To return (something) to the correct or proper place, to save (<i>noun</i>).	
The fine particles formed when matter is burnt (<i>noun</i>).	
Good-bye, something that you say to a person who is leaving (<i>noun</i>).	
A small, usually round piece of glass, wood, stone, etc., that has a hole through its center and that is put on a string with other similar pieces and worn as jewelry or that is sewn onto clothing.	

THE NOTTING HILL GATE CARNIVAL



- A) To read about the history and typical food of the Notting Hill Carnival, check: <http://www.thenottinghillcarnival.com/history/>
- B) To listen to a BBC special on the history of this London Carnival: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1446_entertainment/page62.shtml
- C) To listen to a reporter talking about the Carnival in 2012. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11127213>