



A. Pre-reading

- 1 How do you celebrate Valentine's Day in your country?
- 2 In what ways has Valentine's Day been commercialized?

B. Reading

Read the text below. Your tutor will correct your pronunciation.

Valentine's Day

The history of Valentines Day is said be rooted from a Roman festival of Lupercalia, an annual celebration of fertility during the 15th day of February. Later, the pagan event was changed into a Christian feast by a pope, making February 14th known as St. Valentines Day. Some scholars believe that St. Valentine was an actual priest who was allegedly persecuted by Roman emperor, got imprisoned, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer and sent her a letter with the signature, "from your Valentine." It was on the 14th century when St. Valentines Day became associated with love and romance.

Today, most countries observe this holiday. Giving gifts like flowers and chocolates is popular to dating and married couples in this season. In Japan and Korea, Valentine's Day is celebrated on two dates – February 14 and March 14. Most western countries follow the traditional way of giving bouquets of fresh, red roses to their spouses. In the recent years, not only it is linked to romance and dating, but also exchanging special handwritten cards and presents with friends and family.

C. Vocabulary

Read the following words with your tutor.

pagan	adj	not religious <i>The pagan event was attended by many people.</i>
allegedly	adv	reportedly; supposedly <i>She was allegedly gone missing since yesterday.</i>
persecuted	v	to harass or maltreat especially because of race, religion, etc. <i>The man was persecuted by the authorities.</i>
imprisoned	v	put or keep in prison or a place like prison <i>The robbers were imprisoned immediately by the policemen.</i>
traditional	adj	in accordance with tradition <i>The traditional festivities are celebrated every year.</i>
spouse	n	husband or wife <i>My spouse is very good at cooking.</i>
handwritten	adj	written with a pen, pencil, written by hand <i>The essay will be handwritten.</i>

D. Comprehension questions

Answer the following questions according to what you have read.

- 1 Who is St. Valentine?
- 2 According to the article, who are now observing Valentine's day?
- 3 In what way do Japanese and Korean celebrate Valentine's day?

E. Conversation questions

Start a conversation with your tutor using the guide questions below.

1. How do you celebrate Valentine's day?
2. What are common gifts that people give on Valentine's Day?
3. How do children celebrate Valentine's Day in school?
4. Is Valentine's Day only about romantic love? Or is it a good occasion to celebrate family and friendship as well?
5. Do you think Valentine's Day is too commercial or consumerist?