

# LISTEN A MINUTE.com

## Birthdays

<http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>



One minute a day is all you need to improve your listening skills.  
Focus on new words, grammar and pronunciation in this short text.  
Doing the online activities, discussion, survey and writing will help.  
Listen many times – enough for you to you understand everything.

Follow me: <http://twitter.com/SeanBanville>

 **THE LISTENING TAPESCRIPT**

From: <http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>

Birthdays are brilliant. I'm 62 years old and I still love them. I don't think I've ever had a bad birthday. In fact, I think birthdays get better and better the older you become. Sure, kids love birthdays because they get presents and get to eat cake. But when you get older, birthdays make you feel special. It's your special day. Even if no one wishes you a happy birthday, it's still your special day. A lot of my friends think I'm mad. They hate their birthdays because it means they're another year older. I hope I get to celebrate my hundredth birthday. I'm not sure if I can blow out 100 candles though. When I look back at all my birthdays, it's difficult to choose the best. I'll just say my last birthday is always the best one.



## LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>

Birthdays are brilliant. I'm 62 years old \_\_\_\_\_  
them. I don't think I've \_\_\_\_\_ bad birthday. In  
fact, I think birthdays get better and better  
\_\_\_\_\_ become. Sure, kids love birthdays  
because they get presents and \_\_\_\_\_ cake. But  
when you get older, birthdays \_\_\_\_\_ special.  
It's your special day. Even if no one wishes you a happy  
birthday, \_\_\_\_\_ special day. A lot of my friends  
think I'm mad. They hate their birthdays because  
\_\_\_\_\_ they're another year older. I hope  
\_\_\_\_\_ celebrate my hundredth birthday. I'm  
not sure if I \_\_\_\_\_ 100 candles though. When I  
look back at all my birthdays, it's difficult to choose the  
best. I'll just say my last birthday \_\_\_\_\_ best  
one.



## CORRECT THE SPELLING

From: <http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>

Birthdays are anitrbill. I'm 62 years old and I still love them. I don't think I've ever had a bad birthday. In tacf, I think birthdays get better and better the older you become. Sure, kids love birthdays because they get tsepnre and get to eat cake. But when you get older, birthdays make you feel iceaspl. It's your special day. Even if no one hesiws you a happy birthday, it's still your special day. A lot of my fsrdien think I'm mad. They hate their birthdays because it means they're another year loder. I hope I get to eeclterab my hundredth birthday. I'm not sure if I can blow out 100 ecsnlda though. When I look back at all my birthdays, it's difficult to ceshoo the best. I'll just say my last birthday is always the best one.



## UNJUMBLE THE WORDS

From: <http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>

Birthdays are brilliant. and old years 62 I'm love still I  
them. I don't think I've ever had a bad birthday. In fact,  
I think birthdays better get older the better and you  
become. Sure, kids get they because birthdays love  
presents and get to eat cake. But when you get older,  
you birthdays feel make special. It's your special day.  
Even if happy no wishes a birthday one you, it's still your  
special day. A lot of my friends think I'm mad. They hate  
their birthdays because they're it another means year  
older. I hope I get to celebrate my hundredth birthday.  
I'm if blow candles sure can 100 not I out though. When  
I look back at all my birthdays, it's difficult to choose the  
best. I'll just say is birthday last my one best the always.



 **DISCUSSION** (Write your own questions)

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS** (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © [www.listenAminute.com](http://www.listenAminute.com)

---

 **DISCUSSION** (Write your own questions)

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS** (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# STUDENT BIRTHDAYS SURVEY

From: <http://www.listenAminute.com/b/birthdays.html>

Write five GOOD questions about birthdays in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about birthdays. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about birthdays. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. BIRTHDAYS POSTER** Make a poster about birthdays. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY BIRTHDAYS LESSON:** Make your own English lesson on birthdays. Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Teach the class / another group when you have finished.

**6. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter stream, Del-icio-us / StumbleUpon account, or any other social media tool to get opinions on birthdays. Share your findings with the class.

