

# Language Center Newsletter Volume 4

# July



The heat is back! And that only means one thing—summer fun is just getting started! So, what's the plan?

Anywhere in the world, this time of the year is highly celebrated for different reasons. Here are some notable events in July:

## 1. Gion Matsuri (Japan)

The Gion Matsuri is considered one of the largest and most famous festivals in Japan. Taking place throughout the entire month of July in Kyoto, this traditional event dates back to 869 AD. Originally, the festival was held to appease the gods during a deadly epidemic. At that time, during the Heian period, Kyoto was the imperial capital, and the emperor sent messengers to offer prayers at Yasaka Shrine to bring an end to the plague.

Every year, a young boy, known as the Chigo, is chosen to serve as a sacred messenger of the gods. He rides one of the elaborately decorated Yamaboko floats. He must not touch the ground or anyone outside his caretakers to preserve ritual purity.

The festival features parades, traditional dancing, street food stalls, and displays of Kyoto's cultural and artistic heritage, including byōbu (folding screens) and kimono.



Image from <https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3942.html>, accessed June 19, 2025



Image from Agoda - <https://www.agoda.com/travel-guides/japan/kyoto/immersing-in-tradition-the-magic-of-gion-matsuri-in-kyoto/>, accessed June 19, 2025

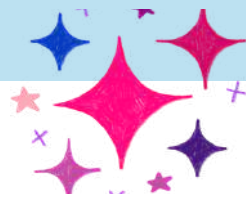


Image from USA Today - [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com), accessed June 20, 2025

## 2. Fourth of July (USA)

This holiday dates back to the 18th century, when the thirteen American colonies declared their independence from the British crown. The Declaration of Independence, the founding document of the United States, was officially adopted on July 4, 1776, marking the birth of American independence.

The Fourth of July is celebrated across the United States with fireworks, patriotic speeches, parades, concerts, and community gatherings like picnics and barbecues. Expressions of national pride are everywhere – people display the flag, and wear clothing inspired by the nation's colors: red, white, and blue.



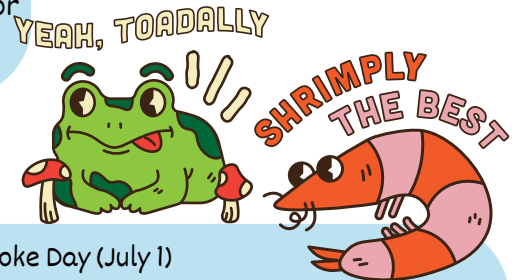
Image from Mark York/AP Photo, ABC News, accessed June 20, 2025

### 3. Festival of San Fermin (Spain)

Every year, visitors from around the world travel to Pamplona, Spain to witness – or even experience – the adrenaline-pumping Running of the Bulls, known locally as the Encierro. From July 7 to July 14, bulls run around the town's narrow streets toward the bullring, while thrill-seekers – dressed in white clothing with red scarves or sashes – run alongside them, avoid being trampled.

This dramatic event is just one part of the weeklong San Fermín Festival, held in honor of Saint Fermin, the town's first bishop and patron saint. Among the many festivities is the Comparsa de Gigantes y Cabezudos, a colorful parade featuring giant puppets with oversized heads that dance through the streets.

The celebration ends in the plaza as crowds gather to sing "Pobre de mí" ("Poor Me"), bidding farewell to their beloved fiesta until the following year.



## Other fun events in July:



#### 1. International Joke Day (July 1)

- Share hearty laughs and kind humor. On this day, people have the best excuse to be silly. So tell your best (or worst) jokes!

#### 2. Teddy Bears' Picnic Day (July 10)

- It's time to take your stuffed best friend to a picnic and reminisce about the good old days.

#### 3. Gummy Worm Day (July 15)

- Did you know that gummy comes from a German word Gummi which means rubber?



#### 4. World Emoji Day (July 17)

- Well, words are not enough, I guess. What emoji best describes you today?

#### 5. Gorgeous Grandma Day (July 23)

- Go to your grandma (or any fabulous older woman who's embracing her "grandma" age with sass and style) and let her know how much she inspires you.

#### 6. International Day of Friendship (July 30)

- This event was declared official by the United Nations for people to promote peace and friendship across all borders.





# Summer Lessons



From street parades and patriotic celebrations to daring traditions like running with the bulls – and even quirky international events – summer is full of good vibes. And for some students, that excitement comes from sharpening skills and growing through summer learning – another kind of adventure!

At our very own Learning Center, students can level up their English skills through practical lessons and real-life situations. Fun activities such as solving riddles and puzzles, role play and dramatization, and even out-of-classroom activities are part of the courses. Learners are guided to analyze, evaluate, and even collaborate with others so they may solve problems and express ideas using English. Through this, they become more aware of what's happening in the international community and better prepared to be globally competitive.

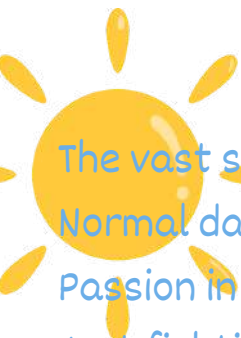
No matter how you choose to spend this summery month of July, there's fun to be found!



## Student Corner

One of the many things students explore in LC classes is **poetry**. A fun and creative way to learn this classic art form is through songs. Like songs, poems are meant to be **heard**, with special attention to **rhyme** and **rhythm**.

Below are some samples of poems written by our **talented students**.



The vast sky far away  
Normal day in July  
Passion in my way  
Just fighting everyday

– N.B.

The sky is blue and lovely  
Like a big red cherry  
The sun is bright  
It feels just right  
Birds sing their song so sweetly



– S.B.



I see a bird in the sky  
Like me, it wants to fly  
I will stop being shy  
My month is here, it's July!

– Y.T.