

The 7 Steps -
January



Coming of Age

1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening Questions 1

- In what month and at what age is coming of age celebrated in Japan?
_____.
- What is the difference between a Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah?
_____.
- Where did Quinceanera begin and at what age is it celebrated?
_____.
- What religions are associated with Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Quinceanera respectively?
_____.
- What are the two events that occur during a Quinceanera?
_____.

Listening Questions 2

- What is the price range for a Quinceanera ceremony?
_____.
- What is a unique coming of age tradition in the US?
_____.
- What TV show followed this custom and what did it focus on?
_____.
- What countries did the show expand into showing?
_____.
- How much did some of the most expensive parties on the show cost?
_____.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think so many cultures mark the transition into adulthood with ceremony? Is this necessary?
- How do you feel about the commercialization of traditional rituals?

4. CHECK ANSWERS

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

5. CHECK VOCABULARY

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

6. READ ALOUD

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 1

In January, it is a familiar sight in Japan to see young men and women dressed in beautiful *kimonos* and *hakamas* to celebrate reaching the legal age of 20. However, Japan is not the only country in the world with a unique ritual to celebrate the transition from childhood to adulthood. The beginning of adulthood is marked by special occasions in many cultures, though the exact age that adulthood begins varies from culture to culture.

One widely known example of this is the Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah celebrated by members of the Jewish faith. Bar Mitzvahs are for boys and Bat Mitzvahs are for girls, and they are typically celebrated at 12 years of age except for Orthodox Jewish girls a year later. Both celebrate the transition to adulthood by marking when a person becomes morally and **ethically** responsible for their choices.

Another widely practiced tradition is the Quinceanera, originating in Mexico and now widely celebrated throughout Latin America. This ceremony, celebrated at age 15, marks the movement from girlhood to womanhood and similarly has a strong religious connection, this time **primarily** with the Catholic Church. Following a **renewal** of vows to church and family, there is often a big fiesta or party that can be quite expensive. In many ways coming of age has become a big business around the world.

MATCH THE ANTONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Primarily	Stingily
Renewal	Immorally
Ethically	Decline
Encapsulate	Ordinary
Lavishly	Exempt
Extravagant	Secondarily

TRANSCRIPT 2

In many cases traditional coming of age activities have become an opportunity to demonstrate status within a community, and associated costs have grown to match. Quinceanera ceremonies can range in price from US\$5,000 to US\$20,000 taking into consideration gowns, cakes, catering and more.

The trend of increased costs for coming of age is best **encapsulated** by the U.S. television series "My Super Sweet 16". Based off the US custom of a 'Sweet 16' party for girls and sometimes boys on their 16th birthday, the show follows the **extravagant** exploits of parents as they pour thousands of dollars into creating the perfect party for their child.

The show generally followed wealthy families that would spend **lavishly** on cakes, entertainment, and luxury cars for their children's birthday gifts. The show was popular enough that it expanded to cover Sweet 16 parties in Canada and the U.K. as well. Some of the episodes featured parties that cost in excess of US\$100,000.

While most families won't be spending that much, it seems that coming of age, similar to weddings before it, is becoming its own very profitable industry.