

For Advanced Kid Learners

Book 3

# Time to Talk

Lesson 8 The Myth of Cake and Candles



## Answer the questions.

What food do you usually have on your birthday?

Why do we eat cakes on birthdays?



**Read and learn.****The Myth of Cake and Candles**

Every year, we celebrate our birthday with cakes and candles. We light the candles, make a wish and then **blow out** the candles.

The ancient Greeks believed that the smoke from the candles carried their wishes and **prayers** to gods. Others believed the smoke helped to protect them from **evil spirits**.

**blow out****prayers**

**prayers** - the words someone says when praying or making a wish

**evil spirit**

**evil spirit** - a harmful spirit, such as a devil



## Read and learn.

Modern people think differently but they hope the tradition can bring the birthday person **good luck**. Many people believe that the birthday person must make a **silent** wish before blowing out the candles. The person cannot tell anyone else the wish, or it will not come true.



good luck



silent

## Read and learn.

If the person blows out all the candles **in one breath**, the wish will come true. And the person will have good luck **throughout** the year.

The birthday cake has also become a symbol of love. Everyone can get a **slice**. People gather together to celebrate and to have a good time. Again, the birthday person needs to cut the first slice for good luck.



**in one breath**  
= one straight blow



**slice**  
= a piece of cake  
that has been cut  
from a larger  
cake

**Fill in the blanks with the correct words.**

evil spirit

silent

In one breath

prayers

blown out

good luck

1. Some people believe \_\_\_\_\_ can keep them away from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, all the candles were \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The four-leaf clover is said to be a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We should be \_\_\_\_\_ when making a wish.

## Grammar



**throughout**  
*from beginning to end*

## Examples

I pray for good luck **throughout** the year.

He really enjoyed **throughout** his birthday party.

Dad works hard **throughout** the day.



Make your own sentences using “**throughout**”



\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the party.

\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the meal.



Look, listen and answer.

Myths	Symbols	Good luck
Cake		
Candles	