**109學年度第一學期『英語文競賽』七年級朗讀**

【編目：02】

**Where Did Birthday Traditions Come From？**

Birthdays are big in the West. They show that people are another year older. People celebrate them with their families and friends. They often have parties and open gifts. These traditions are common now, but they are not new.

 The ancient Egyptians celebrated birthdays first. Only the country's leaders could celebrate them. The ancient Greeks followed the Egyptian traditions. They also lit candles to keep bad spirits away. The birthday person then made a wish and blew out the candles. They did that to thank the gods.

In addition, friends and family helped keep the birthday person safe. They gave the person birthday gifts. They also laughed, cheered, and had lots of fun. Just like the candles, all those actions kept bad spirits away.

In the 1700s, people everywhere were celebrating birthdays. The Germans loved them, and they even threw parties for their kids. Modern birthday parties came from those events.

A big part of the parties was the birthday cake. It had candles. The number was the same as the birthday kid's age. Like the Greeks, the birthday kid made a wish. Then, they blew out the candles to help the wish come true. However, nobody sang "Happy Birthday to You."

The famous song first appeared in the early 1900s. It came from a song for kids to start the school day. That song came out in 1893 and was called "Good Morning to All." People start new birthday traditions all the time. Maybe, they'll become popular in the future, too.

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