

Text B (English / B1)



Valentine's Day (B1)

Valentine's Day, 14 February, is the day to celebrate love. Not necessarily romance. Friendship is also celebrated!

Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries. Its origins were in Ancient Rome with **pagan** spring fertility festivals and two early Christian martyrs associated with love. But each country has its own variations.

I Love You All

In U.S. schools, particularly primary schools, teachers encourage pupils to write a Valentine's card to everyone in the class. So card companies sell special packs of Valentines cards or stickers. The idea is to focus more on friendship and finding something nice to say to or about another person, so the cards don't feature the hearts, flowers and romantic messages typical of classic Valentine's cards. They feature favourite cartoon or film characters like Snoopy, or Yoda from *Star Wars*, and friendly messages like "Hope Valentine's Day has you feeling great!", "Hope today's filled with friends and fun" or, "Have the best Valentine's Day in the Galaxy".

Love is in the Air

But for teenagers and grown-ups, there is plenty of romance on 14 February, and a boom in sales of flowers and chocolates, as well as restaurant reservations. And also **engagement** rings and unusual ways to "**pop the question**".

It's a Secret

In Britain, Valentines are generally for romantic partners, not family or friends. Valentines must be anonymous. People often sign "From a secret admirer". But people don't always want to be seriously romantic. Often, cards are funny. These are traditional poems to write in cards for Valentine's Day. Some are nice and romantic, but others are definitely not! Which would you choose to write? Or to receive?

Help:

- **pagan** (adj): religions celebrating nature and multiple gods/deities.
- **engagement** (adj/n): when you promise to marry someone.
- **pop the question** (exp): ask someone to marry you, propose.

