

Spaniards Paint the Town Red



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 31.
What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

BUNYOL, SPAIN ¹**Once a year**, the town of Bunyol in Spain **throws a big party**. The festival is called "La Tomatina." To **get ready**, townspeople put big plastic sheets over their windows. ²By noon on the day of the festival, an enormous crowd gathers on the central square. ³People shout, "Tomato! Tomato!" **at the top of their lungs**. They're **dying to** see the tomatoes. ⁴Just after 12:00 noon, the tomatoes arrive—in five big trucks! ⁵Some people put on goggles. ⁶The trucks dump the tomatoes, and the party begins. ⁷People **go bananas**. They dive into the tomatoes and begin throwing them everywhere. ⁸**Before long**, the square is a red, juicy pool. "It's wonderful to **let loose** and throw a big wet tomato at a neighbor," says Minerva Gonzalez of Bunyol. "Everyone **has a great time**."

New idioms and expressions

paint the town red	celebrate wildly
once a year	one time each year
throw a party	organize and have a party
get ready	prepare
at the top of one's lungs	very loudly
be dying to do something	want to do something very much
go bananas	become very excited and act wildly
before long	soon
let loose	act freely; release energy
have a great time	enjoy oneself very much

recycled idiom: put on

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)



2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

4. Listen and Complete

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- How often does the town of Bunyol throw this party?
- What do people do to get ready?
- What do people do just before noon?
- What happens after the tomatoes arrive?

About you.....

- Would you like to participate in La Tomatina? Why or why not?
- Does your hometown have a festival where people go bananas? If so, tell the class about it. Does it happen once a year or more often?
- Do you think it's a good idea for people to let loose sometimes? Why or why not?
- Do you like to throw parties? Do your friends throw parties? Tell about a party you threw recently. How did you get ready for it?
- What are you dying to do? Will you be able to do it before long?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I always have a great time when _____.
- I'm dying to _____.
- In my country, people usually paint the town red (when? where?) _____.

8. Write a Story

Write a story about a wonderful party that you went to (or that you threw). Use at least four idioms from the unit. Tell your story to a partner or a small group.

9. Take a Dictation



10. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Two friends, Eduardo and Sara, are talking.
Fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- I'm dying to
- paint the town red
- throw a party
- I'm getting ready
- go bananas
- once a year



Sara, are you doing anything for New Year's Eve?
Let's **go out*** and (1) _____.

Oh, no, sorry, Eduardo.
I can't. I don't have time.



What do you mean you don't have time?
New Year's comes just (2) _____.

I know, but I **have to**** study.
(3) _____
to take exams in January.



Oh, **come on!***** The Dance Club is going to
(4) _____. Everyone will be there.
(5) _____ go. Why don't you come with me?

I don't think so.



You work too hard. It's time to let loose.
Come on! Too much studying can make you
(6) _____.

Do you remember last year's party?
It was too wild. No, I prefer
to stay home with my books.



- * go out: leave the house for the purpose of entertainment
** have to: must
*** Come on!: Please do it! (informal)

- b. Work with a partner. Role-play the dialogue together.