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Reader's Club

- Today's Idioms
- Vocabulary & Pronunciation
- Reader's Club
- Question & Answer Period
- Questions
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Today's Idioms

hip

be joined at the hip

if you say that two people are joined at the hip, you mean that they are very friendly with each other and spend more time together than is usual • *I can go to London without Mike. We're not joined at the hip, you know.*

hit the deck/dirt *American & Australian, informal*

to fall to the ground, or to quickly lie on the ground, especially to avoid danger

- *The shooting started, and I heard someone shout 'Hit the deck!'*

Vocabulary & Pronunciation

brief	- short
era	- a period of time marked by an important event or events
emperor	- The male ruler of an empire.
empress	- a woman emperor or the wife of an emperor
Mesopotamia	-An ancient region of southwest Asia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern-day Iraq.
Equinox	- the time when the sun crosses the equator, about March 21 and September 23.
solstice	- the time of year when there is the greatest length of daylight (summer solstice) or the shortest (winter solstice).
shift	- to transfer
civil	- ordinary
official	- authorized
declare	- to announce publicly or formally
worship	- to pay great honour to
establish	- to set up

Vocabulary & Pronunciation

force	- a group of people having the power of effective action
route	- send, direct
ritualize	- make or evolve into a ritual
ritual	- The prescribed order of a religious ceremony
re-enact	- enact again
enact	- order by virtue of superior authority; decree
proliferate	- to increase rapidly in number or amount
abolition	- ending
medieval	- relating to or belonging to the Middle Ages
pagan	- not belonging to any of the major world religions
impregnate	- To make pregnant
commemorate	- To honor the memory of with a ceremony
abolish	- to put an end to
comprise	- to contain or consist of
leap year	- a calendar year of 366 days, February 29 (leap day) being the additional day, that occurs every four years (those whose number is divisible by four) except for century years whose number is not divisible by 400. It offsets the difference between the length of the solar year (365.2422 days) and the calendar year of 365 days.

Reader's Club

Origin Of New Year

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New Year is the world's most popularly celebrated festival. Perhaps, everybody would like to know how these celebrations began, from where it originated and what is so important about the festival. Let's give you an insight to the origin of this grand event in a brief form.

Origin of New Year dates back to the era of emperors. They thought of celebrating a special day which should dot a day for beginning and end of the year. First New Year celebrations were noticed in Mesopotamia around 2000 years. It was celebrated at the time of Equinox in mid-March by the Egyptians, Persians and Phoenicians while Greeks celebrated it on winter solstice.

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Ancient New Year Calendar

First New Year celebrations were noticed in Mesopotamia around 2000 years. It was celebrated at the time of Equinox in mid-March by the Egyptians, Persians and Phoenicians while Greeks celebrated it on winter solstice. As per the ancient Roman calendar New Year fell on **March 1**. This calendar just had ten months and March was the first month of the year. The calendar originated by the cycles of the moon, beginning in spring and ending with autumn planting.

Inclusion of Two Calendar Months

It was Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome who divided the year into twelve lunar months by adding the months of January and February. The New Year was shifted to January as it marked the beginning of the civil years in Rome. But this was not fully accepted by the people of Rome and they continued celebrating in the month of March only.

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January 1- an Official Date of New Year Celebrations

The Roman emperor Julius Caesar officially declared **January 1** to be a New Year in **46 B.C.** Romans worshiped God Janus who had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward. The month of January was named after this Roman God and it gave an idea to the emperor to establish January as a gate to the New Year. It is said Caesar celebrated January 1 - New Year by ordering the revolutionary Jewish forces to route back.

People began New Year celebrations on January 1 after many years. They ritualized the beginning of the year by acting and re-enacting the world of the past before peace proliferated. People learned January as first month of the year and with this the tradition of following Julian calendar.

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Abolition of Roman New Year Date

In the medieval period, pagan festivals were given more importance and **March 25** was announced as the beginning of the New Year. March 25 was called the **Annunciation Day** as on this day Mary got the news that she should be impregnated.

Later, the King of England ensured that Jesus' birth **December 25** should be commemorated as New Year.

Gregorian Calendar

About 500 years later, Pope Gregory XIII abolished the old Julian calendar and introduced Gregorian calendar which comprised of a leap year after every four years to maintain balance between seasons and calendar. Finally, in 1582, Gregorian calendar was set to celebrate New Year on the first day of January.

Reader's Club

Q1. What a story! How do you celebrate New Year's Day? Please Tell me your modernized story!