Happy New Year!

Pre-reading

Questions:

• What do you do on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day?

Definitions:

• Resolution – the fact of firmly deciding or promising to do something

Reading

It’s 11:59 p.m. on December 31. There are only ten seconds left of the old year. The countdown begins… ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.

Happy New Year!! Horns and noisemakers blow. People drink champagne and toast to the new year.

Alcohol is served at most New Year’s Eve parties. In fact, drinking is a New Year’s Eve tradition for many people. Some of those who drink too much attempt to drive home. These drunk drivers are at risk of killing themselves and others.

Drinking and driving is a deadly mix. It is dangerous and illegal. Drunk driving is a large problem in the United States. About 17,000 people are killed by drunk drivers every year.

Many cities have free buses and taxis on New Year’s Eve. Those who drink need to use them! Keep everyone safe in the new year. If you drink, don’t drive.

January 1 is New Year’s Day. It is a national holiday. Most people have the day off of work. Some people spend a quiet day with family and friends. Football fans spend hours watching college football games on TV.

Don’t forget to make your New Year’s resolution. Millions of Americans vow to lose weight and exercise more. Some decide to save more money or learn a new skill. How about reading a book a month or being nicer to your mother-in-law?
Understanding

1. What do people do on New Year’s Day? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

2. What does the word attempt mean? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

3. Why don’t people have to go to work on January 1? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

4. How many people are killed each year by drunk drivers? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the word vow mean? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

6. If you’ve had too much to drink, what should you do? ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

Writing

Choice A: What do you do on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day?

Choice B: In your own words, summarize what you’ve learned about New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

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