



## EXPLORING CULTURE ENGLISH

Nº 10/UNIT 2  
12th Grade  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: 12th grade \_\_\_\_\_

### IMPORTANTE:

*Esta actividad puede ser realizada en el cuaderno, sin necesidad de ser impresa. Solo debes indicar el número de la guía, su título y realizar las actividades que se solicitan.*

### IMPORTANT:

*This activity can be done on your notebook, without printing it. Just include the number of the guide and its title and do the requested activities.*

### READING COMPREHENSION



## COMING OF AGE KOREAN STYLE

**DO YOU KNOW WHY THE THIRD MONDAY OF MAY IS SO SPECIAL IN KOREA?**  
It is because you can only celebrate this day once in your life. It is Korea's coming-of-age day: something traditionally celebrated by both young men and women in the same year that they turn twenty years old. After this serious and special day, these ex-teenagers will be adult members of society. In the ceremony, they **become aware of** the importance of being an adult and leading the future of Korea.

**SO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO IF YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THIS FESTIVAL?**  
You have to wear traditional Korean clothes, known as hanbok. These are colourful and beautiful. The young people sit in special seats in large groups – it's so impressive that it's turned into a real tourist attraction in Korea, while some foreign students actually take part in the celebration themselves. During the ceremony, the children **bow** to their parents out of respect. In turn, the parents also bow to their children to recognise their children's **pledge** to be responsible adults. Sadly, many of these customs are now seen as quite old-fashioned and are often not passed on to the next generation.

**IS THERE A FUN PART?**  
For sure! You can take lots of great **snap**s and, of course, there are the gifts you receive on your special day. For girls, the most popular presents these days include jewellery, bags, perfume or cosmetics, while for boys, watches, electric shavers or aftershave are all **well-liked**. However, some girls still prefer the three traditional presents – perfume, flowers and a kiss. The perfume **signifies** 'Please remember me', the flowers represent happiness and beauty, and the kiss, love.

**AND WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?**  
Well, there are **fears** that the traditional coming-of-age day festival is being lost in Korea. Many young people now decide to organise more modern versions of the ceremony instead. To some young Koreans, twenty might seem a little old to become an adult! That's a shame because it's a totally **unique** festival.

**FACT!** Coming-of-age celebrations don't exist in many countries. In most of the Western world you are considered an adult on your 18th birthday.

I. Look at the highlighted word in the article and match them with the definitions.

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Become aware of | 1. Popular                       |
| b. Bow             | 2. Start to know                 |
| c. Pledge          | 3. Photos                        |
| d. Snaps           | 4. Lower your head in a greeting |
| e. Well-liked      | 5. Worries                       |
| f. Signifies       | 6. Not like anything else        |
| g. Fears           | 7. Promise                       |
| h. Unique          | 8. Represent                     |

II. Read the article and choose the correct options.

- 1. Coming-of-age day in Korea **has /doesn't** have a serious side.
- 2. Foreign people can only **watch / watch and take part in** the ceremony.
- 3. At one point in the ceremony, parents and children do **similar / different** actions.
- 4. The festival is **both serious and fun / basically serious**.
- 5. These days, young people **can / can't** choose between modern and traditional gifts.
- 6. The traditional festival is **losing popularity / as popular as ever**.

III. Answer this questions.

1. What coming-of-age festivals exist in your country?

2. Are they similar or different to the Korean festival?

3. How many people take part in them?

4. Are they losing or gaining popularity?

5. At what age are young people considered adults where you live?

6. What can you when you're an adult?

- Estimado apoderado, si tiene alguna duda, puede comunicarse al correo del profesor Richard Valenzuela Parra.
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