

### 1. New Year's anecdote

Welcome back to Inside Out e-lessons for 2006. To kick off the New Year we're starting with an integral feature of the Inside Out Student's Book series – an anecdote. Anecdotes are extended speaking activities on a particular topic which provide an opportunity for students to develop their speaking skills. Appropriately, this anecdote is about a particularly memorable New Year's Eve celebration your students have had. See the *How to use the lesson* section on how to set up and exploit the activity.

#### Level

Elementary and upwards

#### How to use the lesson

1. Give each student in the class a copy of the worksheet and ask them to read the introduction.
2. Ask them to read the list of questions and to tick the questions they can, or want to, answer. Then give them time to think about what they are going to say and how they are going to say it.
3. Put students in pairs to exchange anecdotes.

#### Option

Before handing out the worksheet, ask your students to sit back and close their eyes. Ask them to listen as you read the introduction and the questions aloud and to think about what they evoke.

(For a more detailed description of how to exploit anecdotes, see the Introduction at the front of the Teacher's Book of any of the *Inside Out* levels).

#### Follow up

There are a number of ways you can follow up this lesson, depending on the level of your class. A Pre-intermediate class covering New Year's Resolutions (*going to*) might enjoy the site on the next page on how to keep your resolution once you've made it. Another site below tells us about how New Year is celebrated in different countries around the world – possibly an ideal extension of the anecdote depending on the cross-cultural interests in your class. Higher levels may be interested to find out more about the background and history behind the way we celebrate New Year now. If so, check out the other sites.

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.how-to-keep-your-new-years-resolution.com/>

for those who are looking for ways of keeping their resolutions

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm>

a little background history of today's celebration

<http://www.fathertimes.net/traditions.htm>

New Year traditions around the world

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/conker/conkers-and-ghosts/december.htm>

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/conker/conkers-and-ghosts/january.htm>

traditions and customs for December and January