

## I. Read

With the event of Chicago's labor riots in early May of 1886, US President Grover Cleveland believed that celebrating Labor Day on May 1 could become an opportunity to commemorate the riots. Thus, fearing that it might strengthen the socialist movement, he quickly moved the holiday.

Then, in the United States, since 1887, Labor Day has been celebrated on the first Monday of September. The September date has remained unchanged, even though the government was encouraged to adopt May 1st as Labor Day, the date celebrated by the majority of the countries in the world.

Labor Day is generally regarded simply as a day of rest, and political demonstrations are rare. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water activities, and public art events. Families with school-age children take it as the last chance to travel before the end of summer. Some teenagers and young adults view it as the last weekend for parties before returning to school, on the following Tuesday.

An old, and now largely ignored, custom prohibits the wearing of white after Labor Day. The explanations for this tradition range from the idea that white clothes are worse protection against cold weather in the winter than colored clothes to the intention of the rule as a status symbol for new members of the middle class in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

One of the largest modern traditions of Labor Day in the United States is the annual telethon of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, hosted by Jerry Lewis to fund research and patient support programs for the various diseases grouped as muscular dystrophy. The telethon raises tens of millions of dollars USD each year. In 2005, despite the recent catastrophe caused by Hurricane Katrina, nearly \$55 million was raised over 21 hours.

## II. Answer the questions

1. What important date is it?

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2. Why is the reporter giving information about this date?

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3. What is the first city mentioned by the reporter?

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4. What is closed on Labor Day in New Jersey?

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5. Post Offices, which are also closed on Labor Day, are only open for special services. Which are they?

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6. What is the transportation schedule on the holiday?

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7. What is the second city mentioned?

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8. What is closed in this city?

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9. Which is the only Post Office open in the city?

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10. Where is it?

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11. What will be the specifications for parking?

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12. What else will follow the same specifications?

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13. What will run on a different specification and what specification is it?

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14. What will happen at 11 o'clock?

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15. Where will it be?

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### III. Complete the following dialogue

- John:* What day will Labor Day \_\_\_\_\_ this year?
- Mary:* It'll be \_\_\_\_\_ the first Monday of September, as usual.
- John:* That I know, Mary! I mean, what month day will it be?
- Mary:* It will be \_\_\_\_\_ the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- John:* Damn it! This year it will be right \_\_\_\_\_ Cindy's birthday.
- Mary:* What's the problem?
- John:* I promised her we were going to have lunch together at the Oyster's Bar \_\_\_\_\_ Seventh Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, but I'm crazy to go on my Union's parade.
- Mary:* What time will the parade \_\_\_\_\_?
- John:* It'll start \_\_\_\_\_ 12 noon and it \_\_\_\_\_ finish \_\_\_\_\_ 2.
- Mary:* What's the problem then? Most restaurants are \_\_\_\_\_ after 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Labor Day.
- John:* I'm glad to hear that. I thought they were going to be \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. Answer the questions

1. What preposition is used before a week day or a month day?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What preposition is used before a fixed time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What preposition is used before a street or avenue?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What adjectives derive from the verbs **to close** and **to open**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What particle is responsible for the future meaning in most sentences of the lesson?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What conjunction is used to indicate a corner between two streets?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Fill in the blanks

What's open and \_\_\_\_\_ for Labor day.  
\_\_\_\_\_, banks and schools  
are closed. Post offices are closed \_\_\_\_\_ special  
\_\_\_\_\_. And  
transportation, \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, that's the rail, uh, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_, government offices, banks, schools,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and post offices \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. The only post office \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also parking, Sunday rules \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Transportation, subways and buses, on the  
Sunday schedule. \_\_\_\_\_ trains will be on a holiday  
schedule. And the Labor \_\_\_\_\_ at 11 a.m. at  
\_\_\_\_\_.