

# WORD OF THE WEEK

How many times  
can you fit  
'picturesque' into  
your work this  
week?

Other forms of  
the word:  
**Picturesqueness**  
(noun)  
**Picturesquely**  
(adverb)

Definition:  
**Looks charming or  
quaint**

**Picturesque** (adjective)

Example  
sentence:  
**When we were on  
holiday we visited  
the most  
picturesque  
village**

When could you use  
this word?  
**This word could be  
useful in most  
subjects, including  
Geography, English  
and Art**

**Shrove Tuesday** is a **Christian festival** celebrated in many countries across the globe. It falls on the Tuesday before the beginning of **Lent** – a period of around six weeks leading up to **Easter**. During Lent, Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray.

The exact date of Shrove Tuesday changes from year to year. But one thing stays the same — it's always **47 days before Easter Sunday**. And yes, you guessed it, it's always on a Tuesday!

In the **United Kingdom**, [Ireland](#), [Australia](#) and [Canada](#), Shrove Tuesday has another name... **Pancake Day**! Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat. Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!

Today, people continue to whisk up these yummy treats on Shrove Tuesday — and they add all kinds of tasty toppings, too, such as **fruit**, **honey**, **chocolate** and **ice cream**! But check this out; pancakes aren't only for eating during this fab festival — people race with them, too!

**Pancake races** are a super-fun Shrove Tuesday tradition. In this mad-cap activity, people race each other whilst tossing a pancake in a pan. Today, pancake races are often organised to raise money for charity and help those in need. Awesome!

Where did this wacky tradition come from? The story goes that it originated way back in 1445, in the town of **Olney** in **Buckinghamshire, England**. A woman was so busy making pancakes that she lost track of time. When she heard the church bells ringing for the Shrove Tuesday mass, she ran as fast as she could to make it, and arrived still carrying her pancake in the pan!

Pancakes have become such a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition that on this day, a whopping **52 million eggs** are used in the UK alone! That's 22 million more than your average day. *Egg-citing stuff!*

In other countries, Shrove Tuesday has different names. In [Germany](#), for example, it's called '**Fastnacht**' (meaning '**Eve of the Fast**') and in **Iceland** it's called '**Sprengridagur**' (meaning '**Bursting Day**'). In [France](#) and some other parts of the world, the festival is called '**Mardi Gras**', from the French phrase meaning '**Fat Tuesday**'. And for many people, Mardi Gras means party time...

**Read the information on Shrove Tuesday and answer the following questions:**

1. How many days before Easter Sunday is Shrove Tuesday?

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2. Why do Christians give luxuries up for Lent?

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3. What pancake toppings are mentioned in the text?

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4. Where does the tradition of racing pancakes originate?

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5. How many eggs are used on Pancake Days?

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