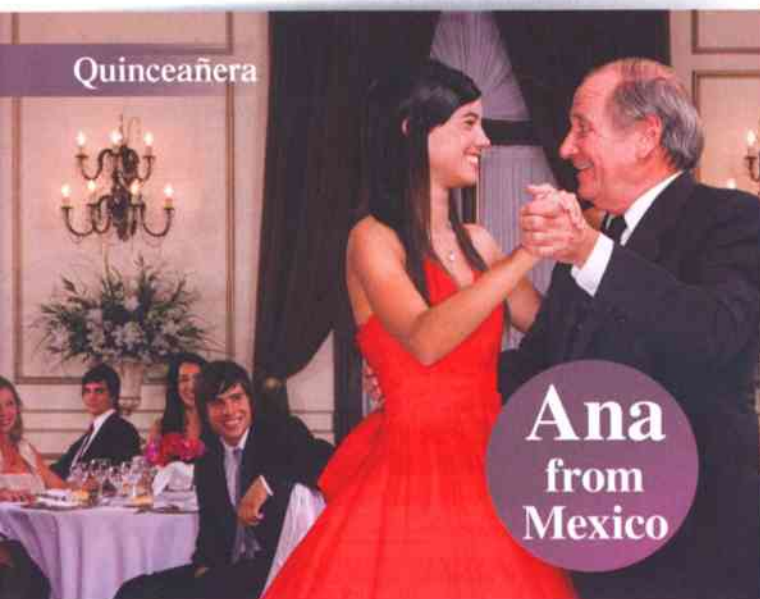


4 Read the article and make notes about the ceremonies.

Country	Age	Guests	Formal part	Informal part
Japan		extended family and friends		
Mexico				

5 In pairs, discuss the questions about your country.

- At what age are you legally allowed to:
 - vote?
 - buy alcohol and tobacco?
 - drive a car?
 - join the army?
 - leave school?
 - have children?
- What customs are associated with coming of age?
- When do you think people really come of age?



30 I'm Mexican and one of our customs is a celebration for young girls on their fifteenth birthday called Quinceañera. In the past, the Quinceañera ceremony signified that girls were ready for marriage. That's definitely not the case today!

My mum had a **small gathering** for her Quinceañera, just the **immediate family** and some close friends. Nowadays there's a lot of pressure to **put on a big party** with DJs and fireworks. So we did, and it was **worth the effort**. It was unforgettable.

My family's very modern, but we didn't want to **lose sight of** the spiritual side of the celebration. So first we went to church for a special **mass** and a **blessing**. The **priest** and my godparents talked to me about my new responsibilities, and I read a letter thanking my parents for everything. It was very moving – I **had a lump in my throat** and I could see my parents had tears in their eyes.

45 After the mass, we went on to the **reception**. Towards the end of the meal my father **proposed a toast** and he got very emotional when he talked about his hopes for my future. After blowing out the candles on my birthday cake, I danced all night. Everyone **made a fuss of me** and I enjoyed being **the centre of attention** all day.

WORD STORE 2A

- 6 **CD-1.26 MP3-26** Complete WORD STORE 2A with the words in red in the article. Then listen, check and repeat. Add a translation.
- 7 Complete the sentences with names of people you know. Then, in pairs, take it in turns to tell each other something interesting about each person.
- _____ is an only child.
 - In my extended family, _____ is the oldest relative I have and _____ is the youngest.
 - _____ is one of my distant relatives.
 - _____ is the first person I'd invite to a small gathering for my birthday.
 - I sat next to _____ at the last reception I went to.
 - The people in my immediate family are _____.

WORD STORE 2B

- 8 **CD-1.27 MP3-27** Complete WORD STORE 2B with a noun from the underlined collocations in the article. Then listen, check and repeat. Add a translation.
- 9 In pairs, match the sentence halves. Then tick the statements that are true for your country.
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Parents sometimes have a lump in their | ☐ |
| 2 The bride's father always proposes | ☐ |
| 3 People have lost | ☐ |
| 4 Most families don't put on | ☐ |
| 5 Couples are often showered | ☐ |
| 6 It's important to make | ☐ |
- a sight of what's important in life.
 b with gifts on their engagement.
 c a fuss of people on their eighteenth birthday.
 d throat when their children leave home.
 e a toast at his daughter's wedding.
 f a big coming-of-age party.

WORD STORE 2C

- 10 **CD-1.28 MP3-28** Complete WORD STORE 2C with more verb-noun collocations. Then listen, check and repeat. Write example sentences.

WORD STORE 2D

- 11 **CD-1.29 MP3-29** Complete WORD STORE 2D with the highlighted phrases in the article. Then listen, check and repeat.
- 12 In pairs, complete the questions with one word in each gap. Then ask and answer the questions.
- What has been the _____ of your day so far today?
 - Have you ever been the centre of _____?
 - Were you really _____ on your last birthday?
 - Do you think big parties are _____ the effort?
 - Which once in a _____ experience would you most like to have?
 - When was the last time you had the _____ of your life?