



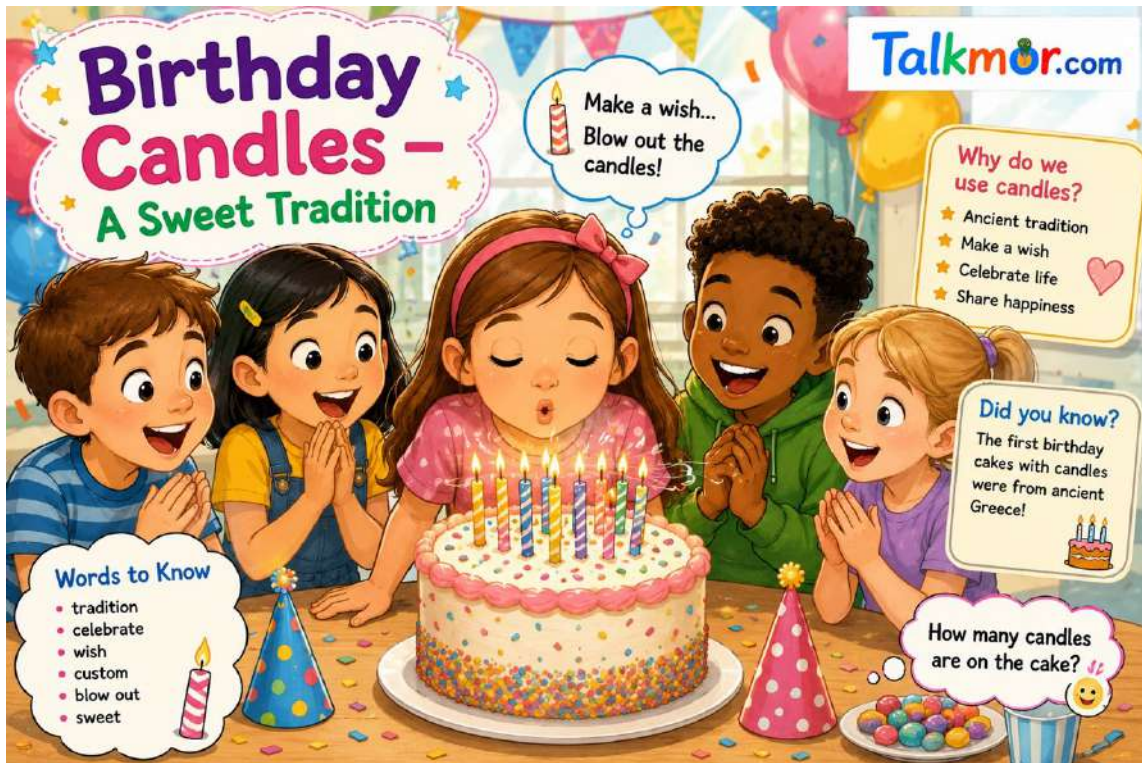
BIRTHDAY CANDLES – A SWEET TRADITION

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What Do You Think? Ask & Answer.

1. Do you celebrate your birthday?
2. Do you blow out birthday candles?
3. Do you have a birthday cake?
4. Why do people make a wish before blowing out the candles?



Vocabulary - Pronunciation Focus

Word	Sounds Like
tradition	truh-DISH-un
celebrate	SEL-uh-brayt
honour	ON-er
goddess	GOD-es
flames	FLAYMZ
smoke	SMOHK
carry	KAIR-ee
wish	WISH
breath	BRETH
ancient	AYN-shunt

Reading Story

Birthday Candles – A Sweet Tradition

Have you ever made a wish before blowing out your birthday candles? Millions of people do this every year, but have you ever wondered where the tradition began?

The story goes back more than 2,000 years to **ancient Greece**. People baked round cakes to honour **Artemis**, the Greek goddess of the moon. They placed candles on top of the cakes because the glowing flames looked like the bright moon in the night sky.

Many people also believed that smoke from the candles could carry their wishes up to the gods. That is why people closed their eyes, made a wish, and blew out all the candles in one breath.

Over time, birthday cakes and candles became popular in many countries. Today, families and friends celebrate birthdays with cakes, candles, songs, and smiles. Some people still believe that if you blow out every candle with one breath without telling anyone your wish, it might come true!

Whether you believe in birthday wishes or not, blowing out candles remains one of the happiest birthday traditions around the world.

Vocabulary Match

Match the words (1–10) with their meanings (A–J).

Words

1. Tradition
2. Celebrate
3. Honour
4. Goddess
5. Flames
6. Smoke
7. Carry
8. Wish
9. Breath
10. Ancient

Meanings

- A. Very old; from a long time ago.
- B. To show respect for someone or something.
- C. To move or take something from one place to another.
- D. The hot, burning part of a fire.
- E. Air that goes in and out of your lungs.
- F. A female god.
- G. A hope for something to happen.
- H. To enjoy a special day or event.
- I. The grey gas that comes from fire.
- J. A custom that people follow for many years.

Reading Comprehension

1. Which ancient country started the birthday candle tradition?
2. Who was Artemis?
3. Why did people put candles on cakes?
4. What did people believe the smoke could do?
5. What should you do before blowing out the candles?
6. **True or False:** Birthday candles began in ancient Rome.
7. **True or False:** Some people believe your wish may come true if you blow out all the candles in one breath.
8. Do you think birthday wishes bring good luck? Why or why not?

One More Interesting Fact!

 In Germany, one of the first countries to celebrate children's birthdays with cakes and candles, the tradition became especially popular during the **1700s**.

Many birthday customs we enjoy today grew from these celebrations.

Teacher's Key

Vocabulary Match

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Teacher's Key

- 1 – J
- 2 – H
- 3 – B
- 4 – F
- 5 – D
- 6 – I
- 7 – C
- 8 – G
- 9 – E
- 10 – A