

# Celebrating a milestone birthday

<https://eflpodblog.com/a-milestone-birthday-celebration-in-toulouse/>



## Everyone has a birthday. Let's celebrate !

How do you celebrate your birthday ? How do you feel on your birthday?

Do you mark the occasion with a lot of noise with a crowd of people, or quietly with family and a few friends, or not at all.

What are the birthday traditions in your country? Cake? Candles? Songs? Cards? Do you know of any other traditions? Get your ears pulled ? Have trash thrown at you ? Have butter smeared on your nose ? What else !!!!

How do you express birthday wishes?

**1**

### TALKING ABOUT AGE

The verb « to be »

I'm 20.

**2**

### TALKING ABOUT THE PAST.

When I was young....

**3**

### TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Expectations for each age?



### When is your birthday?

What is the difference between a birthday and an anniversary?



Have you ever had a great gift? Do you prefer to give rather than receive?



What are the milestone ages in your country?

When can you leave school/ retire / vote / get married?

**ABOUT THIS PODCAST:** This podcast is not complicated as it deals with a simple subject, a birthday party, and the conversation is a series of questions and answers . However, it is spoken at natural speed between native English speakers using common expressions.

We all know that the only way to improve your listening skills is to listen to natural English. This might seem complicated to you at first, but try this step-by-step approach....

### How to listen to the podcast:

(i) Try to get the big picture. Work on answering these general questions:



What is a Milestone Birthday? Explain in your own words.

How did Sue celebrate it?

What present(s) did her friends and family give her?

(ii) Now listen again and try to catch a few more details:

How many guests did she invite? Was the party in one place or 2 ? Where did she stay after the party?

How long was the cruise ? What happened at 3 o'clock ?

(iii) Now that you understand the general picture, try to catch these expressions:

« I was blown away ». What did Sue mean and what was she referring to?

« It was out of the blue » Chris said this, what did he mean? What was he referring to ?

« I don't care for birthday cake » What do you think Sue meant by this?

(iv) Now listen out for contractions. Listen again and try to fill in the gaps in these sentences.

I believe ..... just had a bit of a celebration.

Luckily ..... booked a hotel opposite the bar.

I ..... ask you your age.

So ..... the next one (birthday) ?

## BIRTHDAY QUOTES

The internet is full of quotes and wisdom about birthdays ! Which quotes do you think are good and which are not:

« And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. » Abraham Lincoln

« Every birthday is a gift, every day is a gift. » Aretha Franklin

« With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come. » William Shakespeare

« Everything I know I learned after I was 30. » Georges Clemenceau

« No wise man ever wished to be younger. » Jonathan Swift"

Old age ain't no place for sissies." Bette Davies



