

Todd: So CleAnn, can you talk a little ____ (bit / but) about Carnival in your country?

CleAnn: Actually, Carnival in my country _____ (started / starting) a very long time ago after the end of slavery. And now it has kind of changed a lot into a big festival where everybody _____ (basically / basic) dances in the street wearing very little clothes, very colorful costumes, _____ (listening / listened) to music. It lasts for two days; it's called Carnival Monday and Tuesday. And for _____ (this / those) two days, that's when we have the big parades in the street, with big _____ (costumes / customs), small costumes, and a lot of music.

The days _____ (leading / leads) up to Carnival may actually be more _____ (importance / important) than the two days of Carnival themselves, because that's when we have a lot of _____ (concerted / concerts) and competitions for Calypsonians, and Calypsonians are people who _____ (sing / sung) Calypso, which is music that's _____ (natives / native) to Trinidad and Tobago. And we have a lot of steel band _____ (festivity / festivals), and steel bands are like big musical bands who play the _____ (steel / steal) drums, which were invented in Trinidad and Tobago.

Todd: So, this is a national holiday. Everything's _____ (closed / close) down?

CleAnn: Everything's closed for at _____ (least / last) a week.

Todd: A week?

CleAnn: Yeah, even before... before Carnival Monday and Tuesday, it's _____ (closer / closed) from the Wednesday of the week before. So, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

Todd: And then everybody _____ (goes / going) right back to work?

CleAnn: And the _____ (follow / following) Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. It started I think as kind of a _____ (religious / religion) festival. I've seen examples of it all over the world, _____ (included / including) Europe. And actually, it started from the Catholic Church, so on Ash Wednesday, people are _____ (suppose / supposed) to go to church and confess their sins and get _____ (ashes / asked). And I can assume that we probably have a lot to _____ (confession / confess) after Carnival Monday and Tuesday.

Todd: And so is it usually pretty _____ (more / much) the same thing every year, or does itb _____ (change / charge) a little bit year by year?

CleAnn: It always changes because it's not government ____ (runs / run), and the carnivalb bands, that _____ (means / meaning) the bands of people who parade the streets inb _____ (different / difference) costumes, they're actually _____ (competing /b competition) with each other to get, to win the band of the year, and they're judged ____ (onb / by) their costumes. So we have private owners of bands ____ (how / who) design differentb costumes every year with different _____ (themes / teams), and they have to portray theseb themes on the street. And the aim is to win the _____ (competition / competitor) forb band of the year, and _____ (every / ever) year the costumes are different.

Actually, Carnival is _____ (launched / launch) from the year before. So I think, thisb year, Carnival will be _____ (launching / launched) somewhere in... Actually I think theyb already launched it ____ (least / last) month, July. And so, from July, you're going to see allb the bands coming ____ (over / out) with their costumes on display for people to decideb _____ (where / which) band they want to play, which costumes they would like to use.b Artists start to _____ (release / realize) their Calypso singles, 'cause there's also _____ (competition / competes) for Best Calypso and other different types of musicb which are ____ (not / knot) as big as Calypso music in Trinidad and Tobago.

Listen online and check your answers.

