### January

**a.** January is named after the Roman god *Janus*. He was a god who looked after new beginnings.

**b.** *Janus* had a second role. He guarded doors into and out of all kinds of places.

**c.** A *Janus* word is a word that is spelled the same forwards and backwards, e.g. radar.

### February

**a.** February is named after the Roman goddess, *Febronia* who protected wildlife and gave people good health.

**b.** February is named after a special feast, called the Feast of Februa, that took place during this month.

**c.** February is National Grapefruit Month, a food holiday when people are encouraged to eat more citrus fruit.

### March

**a.** In Ancient Times the month of March was the last month of the year.

**b.** The month of March is named after the Roman god of war, *Mars*, from the original Latin word *Martius*.

**c.** March is *National Noodle Month* in some countries around the world when people are encouraged to eat lots of noodles.

### April

**a.** The month of April comes from the Latin *Aprillis*, the fourth month of the ancient Roman calendar.

**b.** April is named after *Aprilia*, the Roman god of speed.

**c.** In old English, April was called *Eastermondab* (Easter month).

### May

**a.** The month of May is named after the Greek god *Mayo*.

**b.** The month of May is named after the Greek goddess *Maya*.

**c.** Mayo (or Maya) was the child of Atlas and Hermes.

### June

**a.** June is named after the Roman god *Juno*, wife of Jupiter, goddess of marriage and childbirth.

**b.** June used to be called the *midsummer month*.

**c.** June used to be called the *wedding month*. 
### July

a. July was named after *Julius Caesar* after he died in the year 44 BC.

b. July is *family fun month* when people are encouraged to do fun things with their family.

c. July is *anti-boredom month* when people are encouraged to do things to stop getting bored.

### August

a. In the 8th century BC the first Roman emperor *Augustus* died. To honour their leader, the Romans decided to name a month after him.

b. They chose the 8th calendar month because the emperor had won eight great battles in his lifetime.

c. In English, August also means *respected*.

### September

a. September comes from the Latin word *septem* which means seven. It used to be the 7th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.

b. In Old English September used to be called *thrimilce* (three milk) because cows gave milk three times at this time of year.

c. In Old English September used to be called *haligmonath* (Holy month).

### October

a. October was named after *Octogen the Great* defeated Darous III of Persia in the year 331 BC, causing the fall of the Persian Empire.

b. October comes from the Latin word *octo* which means eight. The name was chosen because it used to be the 8th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.

c. October comes from the Latin word *octo* which means eight. The name was chosen because there are eight full moons each October.

### November

a. In some countries November is *National Blog Posting Month*.

b. November comes from the Latin word *novem* which means nine. It was once the 9th month in the Ancient Roman calendar.

c. November is the month of the year when most babies are born across the world.

### December

a. December comes from the Latin name *Decima* who represents the present time.

b. December used to be the 10th month in the old Roman calendar which had only 304 days.

c. In Old English, December used to be called ‘Blotmonath’ (blood-month).