

María Paula Gravano • Romina Mangini

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MY ENGLISH TRIP

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Carnival time!

Carnivals are public celebrations that can include **parades**, **costumes**, public street parties, dances and music. There are different carnivals around the world and some of the most famous ones are in South America. Nelson, Carmen, Rosalía and Paulo tell us about popular carnivals in their countries.



The most famous carnival in my country is in Montevideo, the capital city. It usually starts at the end of January and ends around mid-March. During this time, **tablados** are put up in the streets and different groups of artists perform a kind of popular opera. I love watching them recite, sing and dance! Every year, I go to the carnival parade with my family.

We usually go during the weekends because my parents work during the week. I don't **dress up** or put on **make-up** for the parade, but I watch it and dance *candombe* to the rhythm of the *tamboriles*. And I love having a *chivito* sandwich. I prefer it with cheese, tomatoes, eggs and mayonnaise, together with chips, of course! It's delicious!





Carmen

A famous carnival in my country **takes place** in Cajamarca, a town in the north. I always participate in it because it has its origins in the Nazca culture and tradition. There are street parades and traditional rituals. For example, my friends and I dance in a circle around the *unsha*, a tree adorned with **ribbons**, balloons, toys, fruits, bottles and other **prizes**. At a certain moment, the ceremony leader (the *Mayordomo*) walks into the circle and, together with other people, they take turns to cut the tree down with a *machete*. When the tree falls, my friends and I run to **grab** the prizes. It's a lot of fun!



Rosalía

In my country, the most important carnival is in the city of Oruro. This carnival is called *La Diablada* and it's a celebration in honour of the *Virgen de Socavón* (the Virgin of the Tunnels), the **miners'** patron saint. I like participating in the carnival because many of my **relatives** work in the mines. I'm a member of one of the 50 groups of people who play music, sing and dance on a long **track**. Participants wear costumes, so I sometimes dress up as a demon, an angel or an Inca. This year I want a different costume; I want to be a Latin American heroine!

