

Effortless English

Day of the Dead

I arrive in Guatemala on The Day of the Dead, November 1st. I'm curious about this holiday, so I go to the **cemetery** to see what's happening. What I find is quite interesting.

The **atmosphere** is like a party. There are people everywhere. Families are sitting around the **graves** of their dead **ancestors**. They clean the graves and add fresh flowers. I walk through the cemetery and admire the beauty of all the colorful flowers.

There is also color in the sky, because many kids are flying **kites**. Some families are having a picnic next to the graves. They eat, drink, and chat together. People laugh and smile.

In the United States, cemeteries are always **somber**. We certainly never have festivals or parties next to graves. We don't laugh or play music or fly kites in cemeteries either.

I **find that** I prefer the Guatemalan **approach**. I like the way they remember and celebrate those who have **passed away**. I like that they acknowledge death, instead of denying it the way Americans do. I like that there is life, as well as death, in their cemeteries.

Guatemalans call it "The Day of the Dead", but it is also a day to appreciate life.