

**WEEK1  
ACTIVITY 1**

**Public holidays in English speaking countries**

I. Match the name of the holidays with the pictures.

a) NEW YEAR'S EVE	b) HALLOWEEN	c) ST. PATRICK'S DAY
d) CHRISTMAS	e) QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY	f) INDEPENDENCE OF THE USA
g) DIWALI	h) THANKSGIVING	i) BOXING DAY

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## ACTIVITY 2

### CHRISTMAS IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

#### I. Read the text and match the numbers of the Christmas vocabulary with the pictures.

In most of the countries of the UK, the festive season begins at Advent. In England as well as in most other nations of the U.K. the <sup>1</sup>**Christmas Tree** is an essential part of traditional Christmas decorations. The traditional Christmas dinner in England is a <sup>2</sup>**roasted turkey** with vegetables and sauces – as a main dish. The dessert is usually a rich, fruity Christmas <sup>3</sup>**pudding** with brandy sauce.

For English kids, Christmas is the time to have fun with family and friends and receive gifts from Father Christmas, who wears a long red or green robe. He leaves <sup>4</sup>**presents** for kids in their <sup>5</sup>**stockings** on the fireplace on Christmas Eve. The gifts are usually opened on Christmas Day.

In United States of America the festive season typically begins on the fourth Thursday of November (Thanksgiving). In New York, during this day, takes place a spectacular procession with <sup>6</sup>**Santa Claus** and various dancers and performers. Weeks before Christmas, houses are decorated with trees and electric lights are installed in homes, commercial buildings and business centers too. Since Christmas Eve is not an official holiday in America, offices hold celebrations and parties in atmosphere of cheer and joy. The traditional Christmas dinner in USA include turkey or ham, potatoes or <sup>7</sup>**pie**. Cakes are obligatory for the occasion.

The story of Santa Claus originated in the United States in 1860's. This name was based on the Dutch word, St. Nicholas. Santa Claus was made popular in his red suit, <sup>8</sup>**reindeer**, pipe and <sup>9</sup>**sleigh** by the Coca-Cola company. In Hawaii, Santa arrives on an outrigger canoe pulled by dolphins and the Christmas dinner is eaten outside.

There are countries that celebrate Christmas in the summer. This is because they are on the other side of the hemisphere, southern to be precise and therefore, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have summer season on instead of winter.

Christmas in Australia is often very hot. During the time when the northern hemisphere is in the middle of winter, Australians are baking in summer heat. At many beaches Santa Claus arrives on a surfboard. A traditional meal includes a turkey dinner, with ham and pork. A flaming Christmas plum pudding is added for dessert. Some Australian and particularly tourists often have their Christmas dinner at midday on a local beach, Bondi beach. If they are at home, the day is punctuated by swimming in a pool, playing Cricket out the backyard and other outdoor activities. People in Melbourne sing their favorite Christmas songs and the evening is lit by as many candles.

Christmas for Irish people, who are Catholics, lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. People put a tall, thick <sup>10</sup>**candle** on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. The candle is left to burn all night and represents a welcoming light for Mary and Joseph. The traditional dinner for Christmas is turkey, cakes, puddings and pies.

