



CHRISTMAS

(USE OF ENGLISH)

SILENT NIGHT

'Silent Night' is one of the **1** _____ most popular Christmas carols. It **2** _____ for the first time On Christmas Eve 1818, in the Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Unfortunately, the church organ was not in a playable state. The assistant priest Josef Mohr remembered the poem he **3** _____ a couple of years before, about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Savior to shepherds on a hillside. Mohr decided those words might **4** _____ a good carol for the Christmas eve service. The church organist, Franz Gruber managed to compose a melody for the poem. Now they had a song which could be accompanied by a guitar. In 1859 John Freeman Young translated it into English. It is the translation that is most frequently sung today. The carol **5** _____ translated into about 140 languages.

1	world	worlds	world's	worlds'
2	has been performed	is performed	was performed	performed
3	had written	has written	writes	was written
4	make	do	write	compose
5	been	had been	has	has been

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

On Christmas Eve, 1914, **1** _____ the First World War, something extraordinary happened. On both sides, the soldiers **2** _____ in muddy trenches. Christmas seemed a million miles away. - "...And then we heard the Germans singing 'Silent Night, holy night' – remembers one of the witnesses. Some of the British soldiers began to sing back. Candles **3** _____ in the trenches. A spontaneous ceasefire occurred. Enemies began to climb **4** _____ out of their trenches to meet in the "No Man's Land" that separated the armies. Normally, the British and Germans communicated across No Man's Land with streaking bullets, but now, there were handshakes and words of kindness. Over the course of the day, troops **5** _____ gifts of food, buttons and hats and wished each other Merry Christmas. Some say that there were even football matches played in no-man's land. German and British troops celebrating Christmas together during the WWI is known as the 'Christmas Truce'.

1	during	while	when	in
2	have sat	were sitting	have been sitting	had sat
3	light	have lit	were lit	had lit
4	slow	nervously	hardly	back
5	substituted	awarded	submitted	exchanged

'Silent Night' lyrics activity.

1. Translated songs are often different from the original. The message is usually preserved but the lyrics are changed to make it sound poetic in the translated language. (E.g.: Saving hour, "rettende Stund", is translated as redeeming grace, which is similar, because Jesus saved the world by redeeming it, paying for our sins). Some parts, however, are possible to translate exactly. Look at the German lyrics and find the equivalents for the highlighted words.

Silent Night Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face With dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth	"Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Hirten erst kundgemacht, Durch der Engel Halleluja Tönt es laut von fern und nah: Christ, der Retter ist da, Christ, der Retter ist da! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund, Christ, in deiner Geburt, Christ, in deiner Geburt
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2. Find one word in old English that means "Your".
3. Find the synonym to the word "Baby"(English). (Is used in modern English)
4. Find old English for 'around' (2 words).

Vocabulary

announce
perform
trench
witness
bullet
troop
ceasefire
truce