

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



Christmas is a time (1) _____ family, food, and fun, but the way it (2) _____ celebrated can (3) _____ very different (4) _____ country to country. In this article, we look (5) _____ some of the differences (6) _____ American and British Christmas traditions.

The Date

One of the (7) _____ obvious differences is the date. In Britain, people celebrate Christmas (8) _____ 25th December, but in America, (9) _____ also have Thanksgiving (the fourth Thursday in November), (10) _____ is a kind of 'pre-Christmas' celebration.

Decorations

In (11) _____ countries, you will see houses decorated (12) _____ lights and Christmas trees, but (13) _____ are some differences. In Britain, many people have real trees, but in America, artificial trees are (14) _____ common. Besides, in America, (15) _____ might see a nativity scene (a model of the birth of Jesus) (16) _____ people's gardens.

Food

Both British (17) _____ American families enjoy a big meal together on Christmas Day, but the food is different. In Britain, the main part (18) _____ the meal is usually roast turkey, while in America, (19) _____ is often roast ham. In (20) _____, in Britain, Christmas pudding is (21) _____ popular dessert, while in America, pumpkin pie is a classic choice.

Gifts

Both countries give (22) _____ receive gifts on Christmas Day, but in Britain, it is traditional to open (23) _____ on Christmas morning, whereas in America, many families open their presents on Christmas Eve. Also, in America, children often leave cookies and milk for Santa Claus, while in Britain, it is more common (24) _____ leave a mince pie and a glass of sherry!

Other Traditions

In Britain, many people watch the King's Speech on TV after their Christmas dinner, but there is (25) _____ equivalent in America. On the other (26) _____, in America, it is common to hang stockings (27) _____ the fireplace, but this is (28) _____ as popular in Britain.

Of (29) _____, these are just generalizations, and individual families may have their (30) _____ unique traditions.