

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



Watch the [video](#) titled "How Different Countries Celebrate Christmas" by U.S Investors.

1 LET'S WARM UP

What do you think of when you hear the word "Christmas". Make a list of ten words.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

- a. Describe a typical Christmas Day in your household.
- b. What traditional foods and drinks do you consume on Christmas Day?
- c. What are the best and worst gifts you have received on Christmas Day?



2 CHRISTMAS VOCABULARY

Task 1: Match the words from the box to the correct pictures.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| • Christmas cards. | • Wreath. | • Snowman. |
| • Christmas tree | • Tinsel. | • Mistletoe. |
| • Stocking. | • Reindeer. | • Carolling. |



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____



7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

- Is it common to send **Christmas cards** in your country? Who do you send them to?
- Do you put up a **Christmas tree** in your house? How do you decorate it?
- Do you use **tinsel** to decorate your house during Christmas?
- What is the significance of **mistletoe**? Is it common in your country?
- Do you go **carolling** at Christmas? If not, would you like to try it this year?
- Do you hang a **wreath** on your front door during Christmas?
- Are **stockings** common in your country? What gifts do you put inside them?
- Have you ever built a **snowman**?
- How do reindeer relate to Christmas? Are there **reindeer** in your country?

3 VIDEO: CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Task 1: Use the words to complete the [video](#) quotes, then identify the country.

Christmas cards	degrees	Las Posadas	Dia de Festas
Christmas trees	yule log	bad spirits	gift-giving

There is a tradition of _____, which is a march that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for an inn at Bethlehem. **Mexico**.

Did you know John Calcott Horsley helped popularise the sending of _____ in the 1830s? He began producing greeting cards with festive scenes and pre-written holiday messages. _____.

Christmas falls in the middle of summer, so it is not unusual for some parts of the country to reach 100 _____ Fahrenheit on Christmas Day. Children have their summer holiday from mid-December to early February, so camping trips or beach time are common during the Christmas season. _____.

Some people will burn a _____ from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day. This tradition comes from farmers who use part of a log to ensure good luck for next year's harvest. _____.

Although decorating evergreen trees has always been part of the winter solstice tradition in this country, the first _____ to be decorated for the holiday were in Strasbourg on the border at the start of the 17th century. _____.

They celebrate Christmas in many different ways, including decorating a Christmas tree, hanging lights outside their home, _____, and sending greeting cards to their friends and family. _____.

It is believed that Kalikantzaroi, or _____, appear during the 12-day period to cause mischief from Christmas to Epiphany, which is on January 6th. _____.

Christmas, or _____, means the mother of all festivals. Catholics attend midnight mass at church, often referred to as Misa de Gallo, or Rooster's Mass, named as such because it is the rooster that announces the commencement of Christmas festivities in the wee hours of the morning. _____.

Task 2: Decide if the statements based on the [video](#) are true or false:



1. In Mexico, the Christmas season starts in late December.
2. Poinsettias were first brought to the U.S. from Mexico in 1828.
3. John Calcott Horsley popularised the sending of Christmas cards in the 1930s.
4. Christmas falls in the middle of spring in Australia.
5. In France, burning a yule log is a tradition during the Christmas season.
6. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees originated in Germany.
7. In the United States, Christmas is celebrated without any specific traditions.
8. In Greece, bad spirits appear during the 12-day period from Christmas to Epiphany.
9. Vasilopita is a traditional Greek dish eaten on Christmas Day.
10. In Brazil, Christmas is known as Dia de Festas.

Task 3: Discuss the following questions as a class.

- a. What is the significance of Las Posadas in Mexico's Christmas tradition?
- b. How do you feel when you receive a Christmas card from a friend?
- c. Would you prefer to celebrate Christmas in the winter or summer?
- d. Why do some people in southern France burn a yule log during Christmas?
- e. Do you prefer to put up a fake or real Christmas tree? Why?
- f. What are some common ways Americans celebrate Christmas?
- g. What is the belief about Kalikantzaroi in Greece, how does it relate to Christmas?
- h. In Brazil, why is mass called Misa de Gallo? Do you go to church at Christmas?
- i. Can you summarise the main ideas presented in the video?



4 CHRISTMAS STORY

Task 1: Read the story aloud.

It's Christmas time, and the Smith family are getting ready. They live in a small house in the country, and they love Christmas. There is snow on the ground outside, but it isn't snowing now.

In the living room, Mrs. Smith is writing Christmas cards. Mr. Smith is putting up the Christmas tree. The children, Lucy and Peter, are helping him. First, they put all the lights on the tree. Then they put all the decorations on the tree. Finally, they put the star on top of the tree.

In the kitchen, Grandma is making a big Christmas dinner. The smell is delicious. In the dining room, Grandpa is sleeping. He always goes to sleep after lunch!

In the children's bedroom, Lucy and Peter are looking at their stockings. Their stockings are at the end of their beds. They want to open them now, but it's only 2 o'clock in the afternoon. They have to wait until tomorrow morning!

There are also Christmas decorations in the rest of the house. On the front door, there is a Christmas wreath. It's green and red. There is tinsel on the walls and the windows. There are some reindeer and a snowman on the table. And there is mistletoe on the ceiling. Mistletoe is for kissing, but Lucy and Peter don't like kissing! They think it's yuck!

On Christmas Eve, the Smith family always go carolling. They walk around the village and sing Christmas songs. Then they go to the pub and drink hot chocolate with their friends. It's always a very special day.

Lucy and Peter are excited. They love Christmas, but they can't sleep. They want to open their presents now! But they have to wait until tomorrow morning.

Task 2: Discuss the following questions as a class.

1. What are the Smith family members doing to get ready for Christmas?
2. Where is Grandma, and what is she doing?
3. Why does Grandpa always sleep after lunch?
4. Where are Lucy and Peter's stockings located?
5. What decorations can be found in the rest of the house?
6. What do the Smith family do on Christmas Eve?
7. How do Lucy and Peter feel about kissing under mistletoe?
8. How is your Christmas Day similar to and different from the Smith family's Christmas Day?



5 CHRISTMAS DEBATE

Study the statements, then decide if you agree or disagree with them. Use the language in the table at the bottom of the page to help structure your answer.

John



Christmas brings people together, creating a sense of community and connection.

Oli



Christmas is so overrated. People just spend money they don't have and stress out trying to find the perfect gift. It's ridiculous.

Beth



The Christmas season inspires a spirit of gratitude and reflection on the past year.

Amy



The commercialisation of Christmas has ruined its religious importance.

Express an opinion

It seems to me that...
I feel that...
I'm absolutely convinced that...
In my opinion,...
I believe / suppose / feel (that)...

Express disagreement

I don't agree with you about...
I can't accept your view that...
I have a different opinion...
I'm not sure if...
I'm not convinced that...

Express pro's and con's

There are two sides to this point...
On the one hand..., on the other hand...
An argument for / against is...
Some people think that..., others say that...
The advantages / disadvantages are...

Summarise

So, in conclusion...
To summarise..
Overall, it is clear that...
As a result..
The bottom line is...

6 PICTURE ROUND

Task 1: Study the pictures below. Describe what you think is happening in each picture.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

Task 2: Discuss the pictures using the questions below:

- Give each picture a title based on what is happening.
- Would you like to bake a gingerbread house?
- What are some traditional Christmas desserts in your country?
- What foods can you see in picture 3?
- What are the traditional foods eaten on Christmas Day in your country?
- Who do you give presents to on Christmas Day?
- Look at picture 2. What are some common sources of stress during Christmas?
- Give a summary of the key things you have learned in today's class.

HOMework

Read the article then complete the writing exercise on the following page.

1 THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a festive time that brings joy and happiness to people around the world. It is a special occasion celebrated on December 25th, and it is filled with positive aspects that create a warm and cheerful atmosphere.

One of the most wonderful things about Christmas is the spirit of giving. People exchange gifts with their family and friends, showing love and appreciation. This tradition teaches us the importance of generosity and kindness. The joy on a loved one's face when they receive a thoughtful present is priceless, and it creates lasting memories.

Another positive aspect of Christmas is the sense of togetherness it creates. Families gather to celebrate, sharing delicious meals and enjoying each other's company. This time spent together strengthens relationships. Christmas reminds us of the importance of family and the joy that comes from being with the people we love.

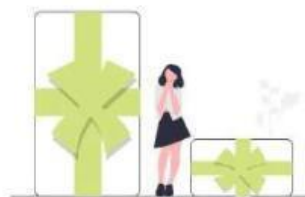
Decorations also play a significant role in making Christmas a visually delightful experience. Homes are decorated with colourful lights, ornaments, and wreaths. These decorations create a magical atmosphere that makes everything feel cheerful. Streets and shops are often decorated with lights and decorations, turning cities into wonderlands.

The delicious food associated with Christmas is another positive aspect that many people look forward to. Traditional meals like roast turkey, ham, and Christmas cookies are enjoyed by families worldwide.

Christmas is a time when people come together to celebrate their shared traditions and customs. Whether it's singing carols, attending church services, or watching classic Christmas movies, these shared activities create a sense of community. It's a time when people from different backgrounds can celebrate a common joy.

Besides the fun things we do during Christmas, the snowy landscapes in many places make it even more joyful. With snow covering everything, it looks beautiful, and being able to play winter sports adds extra happiness to the holiday season.

Overall, Christmas is a time filled with positive aspects that touch the hearts of people globally. The spirit of giving, the joy of togetherness, festive decorations, delicious food, shared traditions, and the magic of winter create an atmosphere of warmth and happiness that makes Christmas a truly special and memorable time of the year.



2 ARTICLE-BASED EXERCISES

Task 1: Define the words below, then use them in your own example sentences.

1. appreciation.
2. generosity.
3. Christmas ornaments.
4. Christmas wreaths.
5. singing carols.
6. snowy landscapes.
7. joyful.
8. spirit of giving



Task 2: On a separate piece of paper, write detailed answers to the following questions.

- a. What is the significance of gift exchanges during Christmas?
- b. How does Christmas contribute to strengthening family relationships?
- c. What role do decorations play in creating a festive atmosphere during Christmas?
- d. Can you name some traditional Christmas foods mentioned in the article, and how do they contribute to the holiday spirit?
- e. How do shared activities like singing carols and watching Christmas movies build a sense of community during the holiday season?
- f. How is Christmas celebrated globally, and what common elements bring people together?
- g. What impact do snowy landscapes have on the overall joy of the holiday season?
- h. Do you agree that Christmas creates memorable experiences for individuals and families?
- i. How does Christmas potentially impact the well-being of individuals and communities?
- j. In summary, what are the key positive aspects of Christmas mentioned in the article that contribute to making it a special and memorable time of the year?

