

Language for ...

Christmas



1 Warmer

- a Read the well-known saying below – do you agree?
'Giving is better than receiving.'
- b Look at the diagram and write definitions for the noun compounds with *Christmas*.



Example:

Christmas card: a card that you send to your friends and family at Christmas.

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2 Video

a ☉ Watch the video and choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Lydia's family *go to church / walk the dog* at Christmas.
- 2 Kamilla's family eat a *ham / duck* at Christmas.
- 3 Patrick's family eat Christmas lunch from *3pm / 11ish*.
- 4 Lydia's favourite thing about Christmas is *spending time with family / the food*.
- 5 Kayleigh's least favourite thing about Christmas is *the washing up / feeling too full*.
- 6 Natasha *doesn't like / likes* the fact that shops are open on Christmas day.
- 7 Patrick prefers to do his Christmas shopping *as early as possible / at the last minute*.
- 8 Kamilla often feels *stressed / excited* about buying presents for people.

b ☉ Watch the video again and complete what the people say with the correct words.

- 1 'In Guyana, Christmas is a _____ - lights, presents, food ...'
- 2 'A traditional Christmas for me is a massive _____, lots of friends and family ...'
- 3 'We also dance around the Christmas tree, because that's a Danish _____.'
- 4 'OK, so usually it _____ with breakfast about 11ish.'
- 5 'There's a traditional breakfast which _____ of like ham ...'
- 6 'We normally have a goose, a roast goose, and Christmas pudding and all _____.'
- 7 'Feeling all fat and full and hot at the end of the day, that's the _____.'
- 8 'I don't like the fact that Christmas is started so _____.'

c These are the people from the video. Whose Christmas celebrations would you most enjoy? Why?



Lydia



Natasha



Kayleigh



Kamilla



Patrick

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d What can you remember? Put the words in order to make the questions that the interviewer asks.

1 would / in / traditional / your household / describe / how / you / Christmas / a / ?

2 how / Christmas / do / celebrate / you / ?

3 there / meal / typical, traditional / a / you / is / have / that / ?

4 of / what / food / kind / ?

5 Christmas / your / thing / about / what's / favourite / ?

3 Language in use

What do people do at Christmas?

a Match the verbs on the left with the words on the right.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 wrap | a carols |
| 2 decorate | b a special meal |
| 3 sing | c cards |
| 4 go | d with friends and family |
| 5 celebrate | e crackers |
| 6 hang up | f presents |
| 7 light | g stockings |
| 8 eat | h the tree |
| 9 send | i to church |
| 10 pull | j candles |

b Choose the correct option to complete the definitions.

- a _____ is a small present that goes in a Christmas stocking
 - stocking completer
 - stocking filler
 - stocking packer
- a _____ is a shiny coloured ball used as a decoration on a Christmas tree
 - bubble
 - globe
 - bauble
- in the United Kingdom, _____ is the day after Christmas day and a public holiday
 - Resting Day
 - Feasting Day
 - Boxing Day

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- 4 ____ is a Christmas picture with 24 small doors, one of which is opened each day of the month before Christmas
- a Nativity count
 - an Advent calendar
 - a Christmas diary
- 5 ____ is long, thin pieces of shiny paper used as a Christmas decoration
- tinsel
 - tonsil
 - tinfoil
- 6 a ____ is a small pie filled with dried fruit and spices which is eaten at Christmas
- mince pie
 - plum pie
 - holly pie
- 7 ____ are small lights used for decorating a Christmas tree
- berry lights
 - angel lights
 - fairy lights

- c** Tell your partner about how you celebrate a special day in your family (Christmas or another celebration). Give as many details as possible. Try to use some of the words and phrases from the exercises above.



It starts with ...

My least favourite thing is ...

It's a big thing / a family tradition.

We usually eat ...



After dinner, we ...

The best thing about ... is ...

We have a special meal that consists of ...

I celebrate with ...

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4 Communicate

Write five questions to ask another student in the class about their Christmas or other special occasion. Interview them and note down their answers. Report back to your original partner what you have found out. Who has the most unusual or exciting special day?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

5 Discuss

Read what Natasha said in the video and discuss the questions.

'I don't like the fact that Christmas is started so early. I mean, September you go into the shops and Christmas is in your face. You haven't even had Halloween yet ...'

- Do you think Christmas products and decorations are available too early in the year?
- Have Christmas and other yearly celebrations become too commercial (= focused on buying and selling things)?

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Extra Activity: Complete Mia's description of Christmas. Use words from the previous exercises to help you.

For me, Christmas begins on the day that our company closes, when we usually have a small (1) _____ in the office and everyone brings food and drinks. At about 1pm, everyone stops working, and we all get the afternoon (2) _____. Then on the 23rd, the day before (3) _____, I drive home to my parents and we (4) _____ Christmas as a family. I enjoy (5) _____ time with them as I don't see them very often. My dad loves Christmas and so there are always lots of lovely decorations around the house and a real (6) _____ with gold (7) _____ hanging from the branches and (8) _____ which he switches on as soon as it gets dark. When I arrive home, Mum makes a cup of tea and offers me one of her homemade (9) _____ (I just love the delicious pastry and spicy fruit filling - yum!). On Christmas Eve my brother and I help Mum prepare the vegetables, she hates doing that, it's her (10) _____ favourite thing about Christmas! Then we relax and watch TV, and in the evening Dad hangs Christmas (11) _____ for me and my brother by the fireplace. They are old red football socks that Mum fills with small (12) _____. She has done that since we were young children so it's kind of a (13) _____ in our house. On Christmas Day we get up late, open our presents and then have a huge Christmas (14) _____ at about 2pm with roast turkey, vegetables and all the (15) _____. We always pull Christmas (16) _____ and read out the silly jokes wearing those funny paper hats. It's a simple Christmas, but I always enjoy it!

Red Words

celebrate*** celebration*** Christmas*** decorate** valuable*** decoration** prepare***
present*** spend*** tradition*** traditional***