

Festivals: Christmas

by Katie Maunder

Level: Elementary. Cambridge YLE Movers, A1 level

Target Age: 8-10

Time needed: Approx 2 one hour classes for the 3 activities

Materials needed (for Activity 1): Coloured paper (A4); cardboard tube (10cm); string; squares, circles and stars for decoration; glue/sticky tape

Classroom objectives:

- learn about Christmas in England
- learn Christmas vocabulary
- practise following instructions
- practise activities for Cambridge YLE exams
- create a Christmas cracker
- revise and remember grammar rules through song

Section/subject: Christmas theme

Skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening

Exams: Cambridge YLE (Starters and Movers)

Summary: These activities include a short reading text about Christmas in England with vocabulary matching exercises. There is also a Christmas grammar revision song and a hands on activity making a Christmas cracker, with riddles to write and TPR activities. The level is set for 8-10 year olds with tasks based on the Cambridge Young Learners Exams (Starters and Movers).

Activity 1

Make a Christmas cracker

The Christmas crackers are fun to make and children learn while doing a creative activity. They use Total Physical Response vocabulary (such as *roll*, *cut* and *stick*) and key Cambridge Movers vocabulary (such as *square* and *star*). These actions can be demonstrated by the teacher. The children also enjoy pulling the crackers and playing with them at the end of the class.

Follow-up activities

① Teachers sometimes worry that creative activities mean there is less language spoken. Add more English language input with this TPR activity to make the decorations. It also gives good practice for the Cambridge Young Learners listening exams where children must follow instructions and colour. Teacher tells the

students: "Draw 3 circles. Colour them blue. Cut out the circles. Stick them on the cracker. Draw 4 squares. Colour them red..." (Teacher can demonstrate if necessary)

② Making the hat to put inside the cracker practices TPR vocabulary (*cut*, *stick*). Children also practise writing / drawing the new Christmas words they have learnt.

③ Writing and answering riddles is a great game and practices the skill of paraphrasing. It also helps children prepare for the Cambridge Young Learners Starters exam (part 4).

Activity 2

Song - Twelve days of Christmas

This song is a fun way to revise and remember key grammar rules as there is a lot of repetition. Also parents love it at the Christmas show! Sing it to the music

Festivals: Christmas

by Katie Maunder

of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which is a traditional English Christmas song.

Students can step forward with each card and sing their rule.

- ① Ask students to prepare and decorate 12 big cards with each of the 12 grammar rules and examples.
- ② Practise the song with the students.

Is for the singular There <i>is</i> a dog.	Are for the plural There <i>are</i> 2 cats.	Don't forget the -s She <i>likes</i> football.
Do you...?, Does he...? Do you like apples? Does he like apples?	Do your homework!! Write about Christmas.	Adjectives come first The <i>green</i> door.
He is for boys He is a tall boy.	She is for girls She is a pretty girl.	-ed for the past I watched TV yesterday.
Did for past questions Did you go to school yesterday?	Will for the future I <i>will</i> pass my test tomorrow.	Remember please and thank you Can I have a sweet <i>please</i> ? Thank you.

Activity 3

Christmas in Britain

Pre-reading activity

Ask students questions about Christmas:

- When is Christmas? (Winter/December/ December 25th)
- What do you eat? (Meat/fish...)
- What presents do you like? (footballs, dolls, cars...)

Worksheet activities

- ① Students or teacher read *Christmas in Britain* and point to the pictures of the underlined words.
- ② Students read the definitions and write the words in the spaces. They find the secret word that goes down the page (*Christmas*).

Festivals: Christmas
by Katie Maunder

Answer key

1. Carols
2. Father Christmas
3. Turkey
4. Reindeer
5. Presents
6. Stockings
7. Christmas trees
8. Crackers
9. Christmas Eve