

Christmas special: Part 2

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

Age: Young adults / Adults

Aims: In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Christmas traditions in Britain;
2. practise listening for gist and reconstructing audio stories from memory using comprehensive questions as prompts;
3. focus on the meaning, form and use of Christmas-related vocabulary;
4. practise using this vocabulary in a personalized speaking task.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; full transcript for Christmas special: Part 2 (with all key vocabulary highlighted in red for reference); full audio for Part 2 – all downloaded from onestopenglish

Summary: Find out what happens to Lucy as Lord Jeffrey takes her to his family Christmas get-together! How will Lucy feel after meeting and hearing all about why Jeffrey's eccentric family love Christmas? Will it change her?

Warmer activities

Aims: to engage students with the theme of Christmas in Britain; to practise listening for gist

1. Write a *typical British Christmas* on the board and ask your students to brainstorm what they know about it and how it is celebrated.

Note: you and your students can find out more about Christmas in Britain and around the world in [Webquest: Christmas](#).

Here are just a few ideas to share with your students:

- British Christmas traditions include decorating Christmas trees, buying gifts and filling stockings for children.
- Christmas dinner is served on 25th December and includes roast turkey and/or roast goose with roast potatoes and an assortment of vegetables.
- Britons celebrate a mythical character called Father Christmas who enters people's houses down the chimney to leave gifts during the night. **Note:** Don't explain too much at this stage as when the students listen they'll learn more!

2. (Only required if this is the first time students have listened to an episode.) Explain to students

that they are going to listen to a very special guide to Christmas in London.

Read this to the class:

Your guide is Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London, who is hundreds of years old. He's seen London change so much during this time and has been there to experience it all – from the Great Fire of London in 1666, to the explosion of music and fashion on the King's Road in the 1960s. He's the perfect person to show you around. He can choose to be either in human form or ghost form at any time and, as you'll hear, he often changes his form to scare people who try to cheat him!

3. Dictate these three questions:

- What do we learn about the house that Lord Jeffrey is taking Lucy to?
- What surprising person does Lucy believe she meets at the house?
- How does the experience change Lucy's opinion of Christmas?

5. Play the full audio for Part 2.

Key:

1. *It is called 50 Berkeley Square, which is rumoured to be the most haunted house in London.*
2. *Father Christmas*

Christmas special: Part 2

3. She realizes that a little overindulgence isn't such a bad thing as long as you are considerate to others.

Memory task

Aims: to encourage students to mentally reconstruct what they have listened to and to work collaboratively in groups

1. Hand out the worksheet and refer the students to the memory task.
2. Put the students into small groups to answer the questions.

Key: 1. Lord Jeffrey's mother; 2. Uncle Bertie, Auntie Trissie and Father Christmas (Lord Jeffrey's dad); 3. that she no longer believes in the magic of Christmas; 4. the delicious food; 5. kissing under the mistletoe; 6. giving presents; 7. having the family close and the sounds of Christmas; 8. sing the modern Christmas carol 'Jingle bells'; 9. she decides to give some money to charity and visit her old mum; 10. it's actually Jeffrey's dad wearing a Father Christmas fancy dress costume!

Christmas language task

Aims: to encourage students to work collaboratively in pairs; to focus on the meanings of the various examples of Christmas vocabulary

1. Put students in pairs and ask them to discuss the meanings of the various Christmas words in the box. Tell the students that all these words were used by Lucy, Lord Jeffrey and his friends and family.

Key:

holly and ivy – plants that have been used to decorate English churches at Christmas since at least the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. There is a traditional Christmas carol called 'The Holly and the Ivy'.

chestnut – a type of nut that is roasted on a fire and eaten as a snack

advent calendar – a picture, usually of a Christmas scene, with a series of 24 hidden pictures or chocolates behind it. Children open

small doors of the main picture to find either a picture or a chocolate for each day from the 1st December.

snowmen – figures made from snow and often decorated with a carrot for a nose

mistletoe – a plant that is placed in a high position in houses, e.g. in lampshades and over doors. The idea is that if you stand under the mistletoe you are inviting someone to come and kiss you!

stocking – a long, large sock that left overnight on 24th December for Father Christmas to fill with presents.

mulled wine – a warm, spiced alcoholic drink

the jingle of bells – the sound of small bells that represent the sound of Father Christmas's sleigh. 'Jingle bells' is a very popular modern Christmas carol (as sung by Lord Jeffrey's family!)

roast potatoes – these are served with Christmas dinner

tangerine – a small orange that is often a gift in a Christmas stocking

mince pies – a type of sweet pie that is filled with mincemeat

cracker – a decorated paper tube that makes a noise when you pull it apart. It usually has a small toy, joke and paper hat inside.

roast turkey – the main component of a British Christmas dinner

Christmas pudding – a dessert made from dried fruit that is covered with brandy and set alight before being served. Some people put a silver coin in the pudding for the lucky recipient to find!

fairy lights – a string of coloured lights that decorate Christmas trees and houses

the noise of wrapping paper – the sound of presents being unwrapped

Brussels sprouts – small, round green vegetables which people seem to either love or hate!

Christmas trees – pine trees that are assembled in people's houses (usually in the living room) and decorated with fairy lights, baubles and tinsel (a long glittery piece of material)

carol singing – the act of singing traditional Christmas songs

baubles – round plastic or glass decorations that are hung on a Christmas tree

pigs in blankets – sausages wrapped in bacon

Christmas special: Part 2

2. Ask students to place the Christmas vocabulary in the appropriate column. Point out that some words can be written in more than one column.

sounds of	food and drink	decorations	related to presents	other
the noise of wrapping paper carol singing jingle bells crackers	chestnuts mulled wine mince pies roast turkey tangerines roast potatoes pigs in blankets Christmas pudding Brussels sprouts	holly and ivy mistletoe Christmas trees baubles fairy lights	advent Calendars tangerines stockings crackers	snowmen

Speaking task 1: Anecdote

Encourage students to use the phrases in the box and Christmas language. As they prepare their anecdote, monitor closely to help with any language required.

2. Place students in small groups and ask them to tell their anecdotes with as much enthusiasm as they can. Tell the other students in the group to rate the anecdote and give each speaker a mark out of ten for enthusiasm! If you have a confident student, ask them to retell their anecdote to the whole class.

Speaking task 2: Discussion

1. Ask your students to discuss the questions in the same groups.
2. Monitor the students as they speak, listening out for any errors.
3. Have whole-class feedback, asking the groups to report back on what they have discussed.

Further notes:

Auld Lang Syne – This is a song traditionally sung at the stroke of midnight at New Year rather than Christmas. The lyrics are from a poem written by the Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788 which have been set to the tune of a traditional folk song. It is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

Christmas special: Part 2

Memory task

Work together with your partner and see if you can answer these questions from memory.

1. Who answers the door at the house?
2. Who else does Lucy meet at the house?
3. What does Lord Jeffrey tell everyone about Lucy?
4. What does Aunt Trissie love about Christmas?
5. What does Uncle Bertie love doing whilst holding a warm glass of mulled wine?
6. What is Father Christmas's favourite thing about Christmas?
7. What does Lord Jeffrey's mother love about Christmas?
8. What does she make everyone do together?
9. How does Lucy decide to celebrate Christmas this year?
10. What do we realize about Father Christmas at the end?

Colloquial language task

1. Look at the words below and discuss their meanings with a partner.

holly and ivy

chestnuts jingle bells

advent calendars mistletoe

snowmen roast potatoes

stockings mince pies

mulled wine roast turkey

Christmas pudding

crackers

pigs in blankets

Brussels sprouts tangerines

Christmas trees carol singing

the noise of wrapping paper baubles

fairy lights

2. Now put the words and/or phrases into the correct columns in the box below:

sounds of	food and drink	decorations	related to presents	other

3. Match the following English phrases to one of the more colloquial expressions in Exercise 1.

Christmas special: Part 2

Speaking task 1: Anecdote

Like Lord Jeffrey's family, you are now going to share your own anecdote about your favourite thing about Christmas. If you don't celebrate Christmas, you can talk about a festival or national celebration from your own country instead.

You can use any of the words and phrases from the Christmas vocabulary task and the enthusiastic language used by Jeffrey's family in the box below.

I always dream of ...
I absolutely love ...
My favourite part about/of Christmas is ...
Well, I love ...
... fills me with joy!

Speaking task 2: Discussion

Lucy has changed her opinion of Christmas; but what about you?

- Has this lesson made you feel differently about Christmas?
- Do you agree more with Lucy before or after her adventure with Lord Jeffrey?
- Do you feel that Christmas has become too commercialized and is just about consumerism? Explain your answer.
- Do you think Christmas is about the gifts and all the food and drink or about something more meaningful? Explain your answer.
- How do you celebrate Christmas?
- What would change about the way you celebrate it if you could?
- Would you consider giving some money or gifts to a charity or to those less fortunate than yourselves? Why? Why not? Have you ever done anything like this before?
- What are you hoping for this Christmas?

We hope you all have a very merry Christmas!

Christmas special: Part 2

- Lord Jeffrey:** Ah! We've arrived. Just outside number 50 Berkeley Square!
- Lucy:** But-but-but that's rumoured to be the most haunted house in **London!**
- Lord Jeffrey:** Ha ha ha! Rumoured? It *is* the most haunted house in London! Come on, we're late for Christmas. Let's ring the bell!
- Mother:** Jeffie! Darling, wonderful to see you!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Hello Mother, wonderful to see you too. This is my friend, erm... Oh.
- Lucy:** Lucy.
- Lord Jeffrey:** Yes, of course! Lucy!
- Mother:** Marvellous! Welcome Lucy. Do come in and meet everyone.
Can I have your attention please. Everyone, this is Jeffie's *friend*: Lucy.
- All:** Hello!
- Mother:** Lucy, this is Uncle Bertie.
- Uncle Bertie:** Delighted to meet you.
- Mother:** This is Auntie Trissie.
- Aunt Trissie:** Mmmm, charmed, I'm sure.
- Mother:** And this ... is Father Christmas.
- Lucy:** Oh ... Wow.
- Father Christmas:** Ho ho ho! I know, it takes a bit of getting used to, but here I am! A warm welcome to you, young lady. Please do take a seat.
- Lucy:** Err. OK. Thanks.
- Lord Jeffrey:** Now that we're all here, I have something very important to tell you. Lucy no longer believes in the magic of Christmas!
- All:** No!
- Father Christmas:** I've never heard of such a thing? Lucy, you must tell us why!
- Lucy:** Well ... I see the ... the commercialism of ... erm ... Are you really Father Christmas?
- Father Christmas:** Ho ho ho! Of course I'm real! How else would all the children get their presents on Christmas morning?
- Lord Jeffrey:** I've got an idea, let's show Lucy what Christmas means to us - Auntie Trissie, you go first. Why don't you tell us why you believe in the magic of Christmas?
- Aunt Trissie:** Me? Well I love all the delicious food! The smell of **chestnuts** roasting on an open fire, dozens of **mince pies**, **roast turkey** surrounded by **pigs in blankets** and **roast potatoes** hot and hissing from the oven!

Christmas special: Part 2

Christmas pudding covered with brandy and then set on fire! And the **brussels sprouts!** Mmmm ...

All: Yummy!

Lord Jeffrey: So Uncle Bertie, what about you?

Uncle Bertie: I always dream of a white Christmas; giant **snowmen** with carrots for noses; collecting **holly and ivy** on winter walks; decorating the **Christmas tree** with **baubles** and **fairy lights**; **advent calendars**; and, of course, kissing people under the **mistletoe** – preferably with a warm glass of **mulled wine!**

All: Ha ha ha ha ha!

Lord Jeffrey: What about you, Father Christmas?

Father Christmas: Well, what do you think? Presents, of course! I spend all year making them, then I give them to the children! And as long as they've written me a nice letter, I always make sure that they get exactly what they asked for. In a **stocking**, by the fireplace and with a **tangerine!**

All: Absolutely! Indeed! Spot on!

Father Christmas: My favourite part about Christmas though? I absolutely love Christmas crackers!

Lord Jeffrey: So how about you mother, what do you love about Christmas?

Mother: Well, I love having all my family close – it's so special at this time of year! And I love the sound of Christmas: **the jingle of bells**; the noise the **wrapping paper** makes as an excited child tears open their present! And **carol singing** – oh it just fills me with joy! Come on everybody; let's sing one now!

All: *Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Oh, Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh*

Lord Jeffrey: So Lucy, do you still feel the same way about Christmas? Or have we shown you that Christmas is about sharing and giving and really not about you, but about other people.

Lucy: You know, I hadn't really thought about it like that. You're right. Of course, you're right. A little overindulgence isn't the worst thing in the world as long as you're considerate to others. This year, I'm

Christmas special: Part 2

going to give some money to charity, then go and see my old mum and we'll have the most magical Christmas ever!

All: Bravo! Hooray! How delightful!

Lord Jeffrey: I think my work here is done! Now, it's time to take you home, Lucy. Here, take my hand.

Lucy: Goodbye everyone, it's been wonderful to meet you!

All: Goodbye! Goodbye, Lucy!

Lord Jeffrey: Goodbye Lucy, it's been a pleasure.

Lucy: Goodbye Jeffie, and thank you. Have a great Christmas!

Lord Jeffrey: Well, that was fun!

Father Christmas: Ho ho ho! I should say so!

Lord Jeffrey: Dad! Thank you! You were amazing; totally fooled her! I can't believe she thought you were real! I guess you can take off the Father Christmas fancy dress costume now!

Father Christmas: Ho ho ho! Actually, I think I might keep it on, I think it rather suits me! Ho ho ho! Happy Christmas everyone!

All: *Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind ?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

Lord Jeffrey: Merry Christmas, everyone!

Father Christmas: And a merry Christmas to you too!