

# Christmas

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When is Christmas Day?
2. Which religion is this holiday related to?
3. What do people do during the Christmas season?
4. What are some symbols of Christmas?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.  
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Christmas      | a) a person who believes in the teachings of Jesus Christ                    |
| ___ 2. Christian      | b) the old man from the North Pole who delivers presents on Christmas Day    |
| ___ 3. North Pole     | c) the northernmost tip of Earth   |
| ___ 4. stocking       | d) a Christian holiday celebrating Jesus's birth                             |
| ___ 5. birth          | e) items that are placed around a space to make it look festive              |
| ___ 6. Santa Claus    | f) a present that one person gives to another                                |
| ___ 7. family         | g) a long sock that is hung up on Christmas Eve for Santa to fill with gifts |
| ___ 8. Christmas tree | h) a tree that is brought inside the house and decorated at Christmas        |
| ___ 9. turkey         | i) not related to one of the main religions                                  |
| ___ 10. decorations   | j) a large game bird enjoyed during holiday time                             |
| ___ 11. gift          | k) a group of people who are related to each other                           |
| ___ 12. pagan         | l) the start of a new life   |

## Reading

1. **Christmas** is celebrated on December 25. It is one of the biggest celebrations of the year in many countries. Christmas is a very important day for **Christians** because it commemorates the **birth** of Jesus Christ.
2. The Christmas season lasts for almost a month. In many countries, streets, homes, and shops are filled with colorful Christmas lights and **decorations**. Shopping centers are very crowded as people buy gifts for their **family** and friends. The Christmas season is one of the busiest shopping seasons around the world.
3. Many Christmas customs come from **pagan** festivals long ago. Thousands of years ago, celebrations were often held around the time of the winter solstice. People were often afraid when the sun disappeared during the long, cold nights of winter. When the days began to grow longer, they celebrated the return of the sun by making bonfires, serving large, festive meals, and exchanging gifts. After Christ was born, many of these traditions were combined with the celebration of Christmas.
4. **Santa Claus** is probably the most recognized non-religious symbol of Christmas. He is a jolly old man with a long, white beard, big stomach, and red suit. Young children in Canada and the United States believe that Santa Claus lives in the **North Pole** where he makes toys. On Christmas Eve (December 24), he travels through the sky on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. He lands on the roof of people's homes, enters through the chimney, and leaves **gifts** for the children.
5. Christmas is also an important time to visit family. Families often get together and sing Christmas carols, decorate the family **Christmas tree**, hang **stockings** by the fire, and exchange cards and gifts. Of course, food is also a very important part of the Christmas celebration. Stuffed **turkey** with mashed potatoes is a very traditional meal served at Christmas dinners.
6. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

# Comprehension

## A. True or False?

Are the following statements true or false? Write T if the answer is true and F if the answer is false. Then write three more true or false statements about the reading and read them to your partner or your class.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Christmas season lasts for almost two months.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Many Christmas customs come from pagan festivals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Santa Claus wears a blue suit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In many countries, Christmas is celebrated on December 25.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in your notebooks or on the back of this paper.

- 1. Why is Christmas a very important holiday for Christians?
- 2. How long does the Christmas season often last?
- 3. Where do many Christmas customs come from?
- 4. Who is the most non-religious symbol of Christmas?
- 5. What does Santa Claus look like?
- 6. What do children in Canada and the US believe about Santa Claus?
- 7. What do families often do on Christmas?

## C. Questions

Do you know any other interesting things about Christmas? Write three Christmas questions below, then ask your partner or your class.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Unscramble

Unscramble the following words.

- |                |       |               |       |
|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. anhcstiri   | _____ | 7. iftsg      | _____ |
| 2. ilamfy      | _____ | 8. rktuey     | _____ |
| 3. rete        | _____ | 9. skingstoc  | _____ |
| 4. ornsdatioec | _____ | 10. ntasa     | _____ |
| 5. ornth olep  | _____ | 11. tmchrisas | _____ |
| 6. rbthi       | _____ | 12. panag     | _____ |

## B. Word Search

Find the words you unscrambled in Part A in the Word Search below.  
The words in the puzzle run from left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top, and diagonally.

```

c h r i s t m a s g d y f
a c h r i s t i a n h a m
i d p k p i r g m i m s q
s s e a v a e i i i n e s
d t s c g s e m l p v v e
e o a v o a e y y r c i i
g c n v i r n k n a h t n
i k t e p o a u e y l a o
f i a s n o r t h p o l e
t n e v r a h b i r t h e
s g h f e f o z p o r t r
e s b e j r w e w k n t e
t u r k e y d b y i o s c
    
```

## Survey


Find a partner and ask the following four questions. There are also four blank spaces below. Use these spaces to add four more questions to the survey. After you have conducted the survey, join another pair and tell them about your partner's plans for Christmas this year.

#	Question	Answer
1	Do you celebrate Christmas in your country?	
2	Are you going to have a Christmas dinner this year?	
3	Who is going to come for dinner?	
4	What food is going to be served?	
5		
6		
7		
8		

## Writing

Is Christmas celebrated in your country? If so, write a couple of paragraphs in your notebook about what Christmas is like where you come from. When you are finished, share it with the class or with your partner. If you don't celebrate Christmas, write about another holiday or tradition in your country.

## Listening

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2015/12/09/podcast-christmas-low-intermediate/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated on December 25. It is one of the biggest celebrations of the year in many countries. Christmas is a very important day for \_\_\_\_\_ because it commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.
2. The Christmas season lasts for almost a month. In many countries, streets, homes, and shops are filled with colorful Christmas lights and \_\_\_\_\_. Shopping centers are very crowded as people buy gifts for their \_\_\_\_\_ and friends. The Christmas season is one of the busiest shopping seasons around the world.
3. Many Christmas customs come from \_\_\_\_\_ festivals long ago. Thousands of years ago, celebrations were often held around the time of the winter solstice. People were often afraid when the sun disappeared during the long, cold nights of winter. When the days began to grow longer, they celebrated the return of the sun by making bonfires, serving large, festive meals, and \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. After Christ was born, many of these traditions were combined with the celebration of Christmas.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is probably the most recognized non-religious symbol of Christmas. He is a jolly old man with a long, white beard, big stomach, and red suit. Young children in Canada and the United States believe that Santa Claus lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ where he makes toys. On Christmas Eve (December 24), he travels through the sky on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. He lands on the roof of people's homes, enters through the chimney, and leaves gifts for the children.
5. Christmas is also an important time to visit family. Families often get together and sing Christmas carols, decorate the family Christmas tree, hang \_\_\_\_\_ by the fire, and exchange cards and gifts. Of course, food is also a very important part of the Christmas celebration. Stuffed \_\_\_\_\_ with mashed potatoes is a very traditional meal served at Christmas dinners.
6. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!