

# Włącz się w języki, nie bądź offline!



# Christmas...

Christmas can mean different things to different people. For many people it means eating a lot and spending time with family and visiting relatives and friends. For children it often means presents, presents and more presents!

## **The origins of Christmas**

In ancient times people had mid-winter festivals when the days were short and the nights were very long. They believed that their ceremonies would help the sun's power return. The Romans decorated their homes with green plants in December to remind Saturn, their harvest god, to return the following spring. In CE440 the Christian church decided that the birth of Christ should be celebrated every year on December 25th. Some of these ancient customs were adopted by early Christians as part of their celebrations of the birthday of Jesus Christ. Green plants are still used to decorate many British homes in December. At Christmas we cover trees (real ones or reusable synthetic trees) in with shiny balls and flashing lights!

## **Cards and presents**

It's very common to send Christmas cards to friends, family, colleagues, classmates and neighbours in the weeks leading up to December 25th. Christmas is traditionally a time for helping other people and giving money to charities. Many people send charity cards; where a percentage of the cost of each card goes to charity. People send fewer cards than in the past as they now send Christmas greetings by email or via Facebook. Christmas presents are reserved for close friends and family. Traditionally the giving of a gift is symbolic of the three wise men giving their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. Popular presents for young people in the UK in recent years include a Smart phone, a Playstation Move and 80's retro fashion.

## **Father Christmas (aka Santa Claus)**

Every year small children tell Father Christmas (also known as Santa Claus) exactly what presents they would like to receive. They can write him letter with a list of requests or they can visit him personally in one of the large department stores across Britain in the weeks before Christmas. On the night of December 24th Father Christmas travels through the sky on a sleigh pulled by magic reindeers and delivers presents to children across Britain. How does he enter the children's houses? Via the chimney of course!

## **The Christmas number one**

Every year, for a few weeks around Christmas time, the UK music charts go mad. Groups and singers who normally make cool music create a song that they hope will be number one on Christmas Day. The Christmas number one single is written about in newspapers, talked about on the radio and people can even bet money in betting shops to see which song will win the race. In the last ten years, the Christmas number one has been dominated by singers who have won reality television competitions. Recently the band 'Rage Against the Machine' started a Facebook campaign to be the first group with a Christmas number 1 with a download only song They won their anti- corporate campaign with the song 'Killing in the name'.

## **Snow**

Snow at Christmas is part of British culture. You often see it on Christmas cards, you can buy fake snow to decorate your house and there are even songs about snow at Christmas. There was lots of snow last winter in the UK so many people enjoyed a white Christmas. People can bet on whether it will snow or not on December 25th at betting shops around the country.

## **Turkey and crackers**

Christmas dinner is usually eaten at midday or early afternoon. It traditionally includes roast turkey, vegetables and potatoes. There are also lots of alternatives to the turkey dinner for vegetarians who prefer a meat-free Christmas. Dessert is a rich, fruity cake called Christmas pudding. Traditionally a Christmas cracker is placed next to each person. When you pull the cracker with the person next to you, you hear a loud 'bang!' and a paper hat, a joke and a small gift fall from the cracker. You have to wear the hat, tell the joke to the other people at the table and keep the gift.

## Christmas means.....

Does everyone like Christmas? These comments from young Brits reflect some of the wide range of opinions about Christmas in the UK:

**Yasmeen, 20, Liverpool:** Christmas to me means catching up with your family and having a laugh. Last of all opening your presents.

**Ruby, 15, London:** It's too commercial. There are too many adverts trying to get everyone to spend their money.

**James, 13, Crediton:** Bringing all your family together, having a laugh, giving presents and eating loads of delicious foods. YUM! YUM!

**Tony, 18, Bakewell:** The shops start selling Christmas cards in September! That's 3 months before Christmas. Ridiculous!

**Claire, 22, Derby:** I work for a charity that gives food to homeless people every Christmas. These people have no home or family so we try to make December 25th a happy day for them.

**Charlie, 15, Canturbury:** I think Xmas is as much about giving as it is getting. I also think it's a time for the whole family to get together and enjoy being with each other.

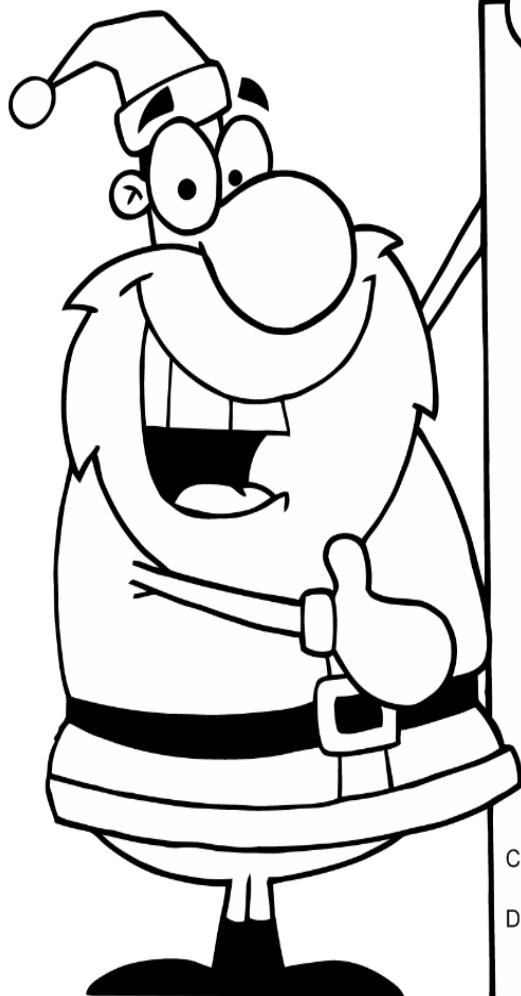
**Alisha, 16, Manchester:** I think that Christmas is a religious time, not just for Christians but for Jews and Muslims too. I celebrate the season the Christian way.

## Have you ever spent Christmas in a different country?

If so, was it very different to how you usually spend Christmas?

Custom	Country
1) St. Nicolas brings presents on December 6th to good children and a bag of sticks for bad children.	Czech Republic
2) December 26th is called Boxing Day and was traditionally a day to give presents to the poor.	Great Britain
3) Tropical flowers are used as Christmas decorations.	Costa Rica
4) The three Kings arrive on the night of January 5th to give presents to children. Most towns have a carnival style parade through the streets.	Spain
5) On January 6th a special almond cake with a toy crown inside is eaten.	France
6) Wooden decorations and candles are put in windows of homes.	Germany
7) The Christian population is between 4 – 6% and big cities put up Christmas trees.	China
8) Fir trees grow here and they always send the biggest and most beautiful fir tree to Boston in the USA.	Canada

# Test your knowledge about Christmas!



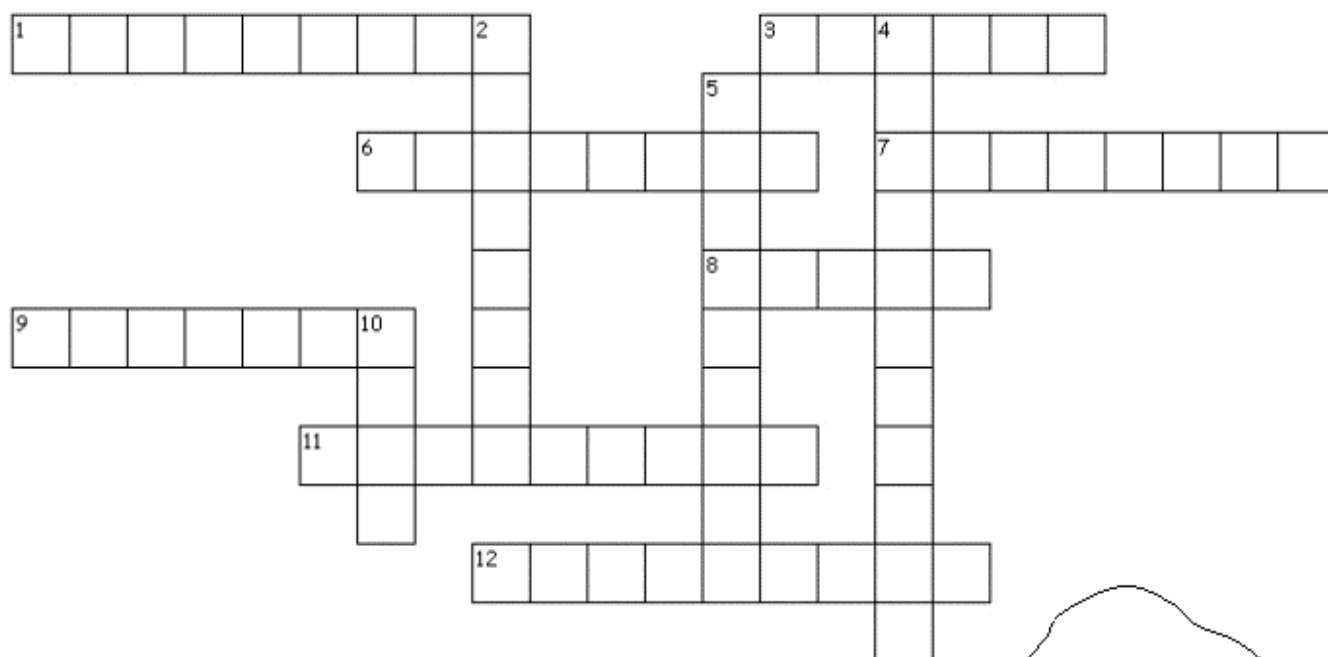
www.kidscanhavefun.com

## Christmas Santa Word Search

K Z D S T O C K I N G S W S Z  
U E H P Q J Q H M T E N Z A P  
R B R A R D X X R J O L U N J  
K S T C V E E H B I N B T T M  
D N T C Z G S C F T S E S A T  
Y W J A A T P E E F R T S C A  
X B Z S R N X U N M S E M L Y  
B M G X Z M D F V T B L E A W  
F I G Q W Z Q Y Y L S E A U S  
P S L E I G H S G B B W R S Q

Christmas    Presents    Santa Claus    Sleigh    Tree    Red  
December    Star    Candy    Stockings

# Christmas Crossword



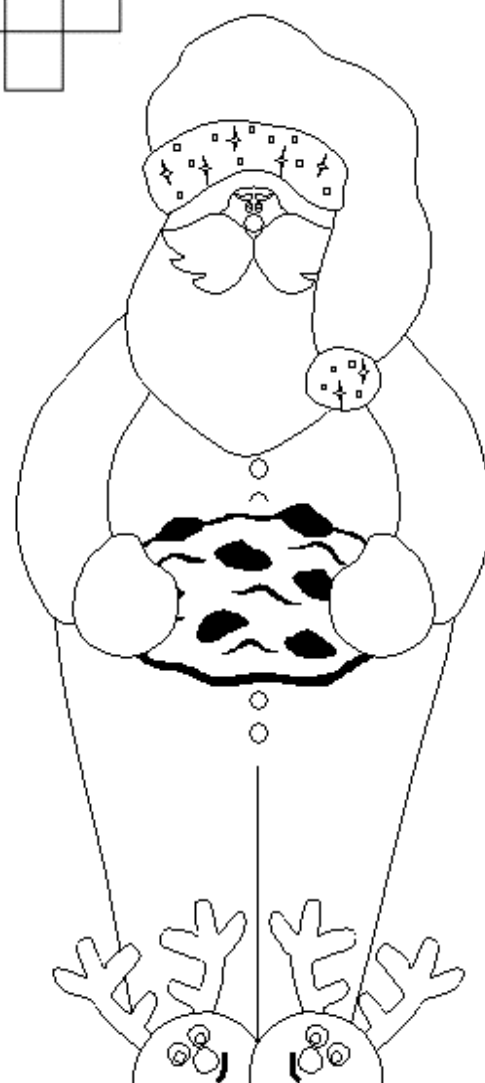
**Word List:** angels, candycane, Christmas, comet, cookies, gingerbread, Nicholas, ornaments, presents, shepherd, star, stockings

## Across

1. Pretty baubles to hang on the Christmas tree.
3. Guardians who announce the good news.
6. Wrapped with love.
7. Jolly old Saint \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Dasher, dancer, prancer, vixen, \_\_\_\_\_, cupid, donner, blitzen
9. Warm snacks for Santa.
11. Sweet and red and white.
12. We wish you a merry \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

2. Keeper of the flocks.
4. House made of sweet treats.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ were hung by the chimney with care.
10. Bright light marks the way.



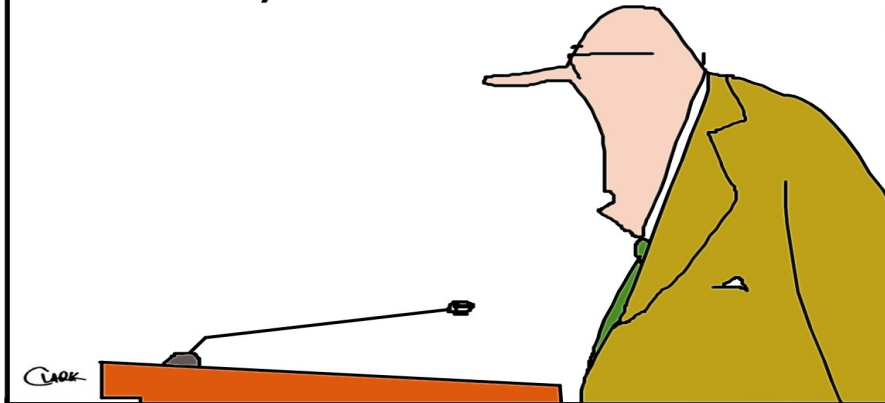
# New Year's resolutions

Have you ever made any new year's resolutions? In the UK many people make resolutions for the new year. These are promises they make to themselves. Typical resolutions may be to give up smoking, do more exercise or to read more books.

## HONEST JON

by Jon Clark

My wife challenged me to make new year's resolutions I can keep.. So I'm determined and committed to becoming fatter, lazier and older this year...



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## ***Konkursy językowe:***

1. Konkurs na komiks w języku angielskim:

**„Szara rzeczywistość... czyli z życia naszej szkoły”**

(szczegóły na następnej stronie!)

(termin nadsyłania prac 01.03.2015)

2. Konkurs plastyczny **BOHATEROWIE ROSYJSKICH BAŚNI  
LUDOWYCH** (14.02.2015)

3. Konkurs wiedzy o kulturze Rosji **ZAKOCHAJ SIĘ W ROSJI**  
(14.03.2015)

Zapraszamy do uczestnictwa!

Szczegółowe informacje u nauczycieli przedmiotu.



# KONKURS

BĄDŹ KREATYWNY!!!

WEŹ UDZIAŁ W KONKURSIE NA KOMIKS W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

POD TYTUŁEM:

## „SZARA RZECZYWISTOŚĆ... CZYLI Z ŻYCIA NASZEJ SZKOŁY”

Jak wziąć udział w konkursie?:

Wejdź na stronę szkoły [www.zsnr1.edu.pl](http://www.zsnr1.edu.pl) , w zakładkę **KLUB JĘZYKA ANGIELSKIEGO ‘I want you to speak English’**.

Pobierz instrukcję tworzenia komiksów w serwisie online ToonDoo.

Zarejestruj się na stronie [www.toondoo.com](http://www.toondoo.com) i stwórz własny komiks w języku angielskim dotyczący naszej szkoły.

Prześlij link na adres: [klub.angielski@gmail.com](mailto:klub.angielski@gmail.com) do dnia **01.03.2015r.**

Czekamy na Wasze pomysły! :)

# CHRISTMAS GROUP THERAPY

I DON'T BELIEVE  
IN MYSELF.

I THINK  
I'M BI-POLAR.

ALL THE OTHER  
REINDEER LAUGH  
AND CALL ME  
NAMES.

I'M  
TRAPPED  
IN A  
DEAD-END  
JOB.

