

Stage I Pronunciation.

1. Write the transcribed Christmas words. Mind the spelling!

1 ['tʃɪmni]

2 [ri:θ]

3 ['dʒɪndʒəbred]

4 ['mɪs(ə)ltəʊ]

5 ['hɒli]

6 ['sæntə klɔ:z] (2 words)

7 ['tɜ:kɪ]

8 [sleɪ]

9 ['stɔ:kɪŋ]

10 [kɑ:dz]

Stage II Reading

II A Read the texts and write if the statements below are true or false according to them.

New Year's Eve Traditions

Every December 31st, the world celebrates New Year's Eve. Many people enjoy a nice party with friends or romantic dinner on this night. However, some countries have very unusual New Year's Eve traditions. Here are traditions from five countries!

1. **South Africa:** In the city of Johannesburg, some people throw furniture out their windows. They have even thrown out microwaves and fridges. Police have warned people not to do this but the practice continues anyways.

2. **The Philippines:** Filipinos have many different customs for New Year's Eve. One of these is to make lots of noise to scare away evil spirits. Another is to turn on all the lights in the house to make the New Year bright and cheerful.

3. **Brazil:** Many people wear different colors to bring something new for the coming year. Wearing white is said to bring in luck. Wearing yellow is a wish for money. Wearing red clothes is a wish for passion and romance.

4. **Greece:** A popular New Year's Eve tradition in Greece is to bake a cake with a coin inside of it. After the cake is baked, people slice it into pieces and give one to each of their family members. Whoever gets the piece with the coin inside will have good luck in the coming year.

5. **Ireland:** For many centuries, it has been a New Year's tradition to bang bread loaves on doors and walls in a house. This chases the bad luck out of the house and invites good luck inside.

1. In South Africa, people throw bread out the window on New Year's Eve.

a) True

b) False

2. People turn off the lights in the Philippines on New Year's Eve for good luck.

a) True

b) False

3. What is sometimes put inside of a cake on New Year's Eve in Greece?

a) furniture

b) a coin

c) a loaf of bread

d) white clothes

4. What do people bang bread loaves on in Ireland for good luck?

a) family members

b) furniture

c) doors and walls

d) microwaves

5. Wearing red in Brazil on New Year's Eve is a wish for:

a) money

b) a cake

c) furniture

d) romance

II B Read the story carefully and insert the missing sentences in italics or parts of them. One of them is odd! Fill in the table below with your answers.

A so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside

B who was the happiest and merriest girl in the world

C because she could only give this small present to Jesus

D how Poinsettias and Christmas come together

E what Pedro had said

F who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services

G which led the Wise Men to Jesus

H tried to cheer her up

I and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle

There is an old Mexican legend about 1 _____, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita 2 . As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro 3 . 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, 4 and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed 5 . As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered 6 . She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, 7 . From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem 8 . The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

The Poinsettia is also the national emblem of Madagascar.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Stage III Vocabulary

III Place some of the words from the table below into this short description of Christmas in England. Do not forget to end -s where necessary. You DO NOT need some words.

Sherry, Christmas pudding, present, Father Christmas, candle, carol, star, snowman, sleigh, stocking, bells, gingerbread houses, Christmas Eve, The Queen's Speech, decorations, turkey.

Christmas in England.

Preparations for Christmas start early. We buy the Christmas tree a week or two before and then put the (1) _____ on it one evening after school. Near to Christmas, we like to light a (2) _____ in the evenings too, because it looks more festive.

The children hang up their (3) _____ at the end of their beds, on (4) _____, and we put some small toys or food into them.

On Christmas Day, we usually get woken up quite early by the kids, who are always keen to open their (5) _____. We sit around the

Christmas tree and open them in the morning.

We like to go to church too. We can hear the (6) _____ from our house and it's only a short walk. The children like singing (7) _____.

Then, it's back home for a glass of (8) _____ before Christmas dinner. We eat that and then watch (9) _____ on TV, like most people in the UK.

If it has snowed, we'll be outside later playing snowballs or making a (10) _____, and then it's just a relaxing family day watching TV and perhaps playing a few games. We usually eat too much and have to go to bed quite early!

Stage IV Grammar

IV Read the texts carefully and put the words in CAPITAL LETTERS in the right grammar form according to the text:

Christmas trees

One Christmas Eve the trees in a wood were very unhappy. They wished very much to make Christmas stay, but they ___ a) **NOT/KNOW** ___ how to do so. 'We are so bare,' complained one tree. 'If we only had our pretty green summer dresses,' said other trees. 'Hush, children, hush,' whispered North Wind in a gentle voice, which was unusual for the ___ b) **BAD** ___ of all winds. 'Go to sleep.' While they slept something happened. When the trees awoke they found that someone, perhaps North Wind, had cast over each of ___ c) **THEY** ___ a lovely soft cloak of spotless feathery white.

What a story!

Alice, aged 4, returned from Sunday school with a new amusing Christmas story about the Three Wise Men of the East. They ___ d) **BRING** ___ gifts to the baby Jesus. Alice was so excited she just had to tell her parents, 'I learned in Sunday School all about the very ___ e) **ONE** ___ Christmas. There ___ f) **BE/NOT** ___ a Santa Claus then, so these three wise men on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright didn't lead the sleigh, so they had to follow the big star in the sky to find their way around'.

Stage V Word building

V Read the texts carefully and make the appropriate words in CAPITAL LETTERS in the right form according to the text. Put suffixes or prefixes and the appropriate ending where necessary:

Christmas

Christmas is the most important annual festival in both Britain and North

America. In its origins, it combines the Christian ___g) CELEBRATE___ of the birth of Christ, on 25 December, with the ancient tradition of a winter feast during the darkest period of the year.

Christmas carols – a special kind of religious songs – are an important part of it. At this time, too, many carol ___h) SING___ make door-to-door visits to people at home, collecting money for this or that charity. Many weeks before Christmas, shops start selling ___i) VARY___ Christmas cards and Christmas gifts. Shop ___j) OWN___ decorate their shops with holly, mistletoe, candles and ___k) ___COLOUR___ paper chains and lanterns. All kinds of traditional Christmas food are also ___l) WIDE___ available.

Stage VI QUIZ

Answer the following questions using the Christmas beliefs and facts.

Write the answers down in words. Mind the grammar and spelling!

1. When do people celebrate Christmas in the UK and the USA? **Write the answer using WORDS, NOT numbers!**
2. What is the day before Christmas called?
3. Where does Santa Claus live?
4. Who helps Santa make toys?
5. How many times does Santa check his list (according to the famous song Santa Claus is coming to town)?
6. What does Santa leave for children who were naughty?
7. Who tried to steal Christmas in a Christmas movie?
8. What can you find in a Christmas pudding? People believe it brings luck.
9. How many days are there on a traditional Advent calendar?
10. What do people do under the mistletoe (it's a Christmas tradition)?
11. With which 4th century saint did the legend of Santa begin (What was his name)?
12. What food do kids in Britain leave for Santa's reindeer?
13. In which country did the Christmas tree tradition start?
14. What is the name of Santa's main reindeer that has a red nose lighting the way (there's a Christmas carol about him and his story).
15. What do children in the US leave for Santa?
16. Which of the following IS NOT Santa's reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Star, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen.
17. How does Santa enter the house?
18. Which of the following IS NOT a Christmas carol (it's a New Year song): Silent Night, Jingle Bells, The Twelve Days of Christmas, Auld Lang Syne, Deck the Halls, Joy to the World, We Wish you a Merry Christmas?
19. What form of transport does Santa use?
20. Which country donates the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square?

21. What birds are popular on Christmas cards?
22. What is a traditional Christmas drink made of beaten eggs, milk or cream, and sugar called?
23. What do British people traditionally do at the start of Christmas meal?
24. Which plant is also called Bethlehem Star or Christmas star? It's widely used at Christmas.
25. What calendar traditionally helps you countdown to Christmas?

Stage VII Writing

Make up a Christmas story full of Christmas spirit (cheer, joy) on the following topic *Christmas comes but once a year* and write it down here.

The proverb Christmas comes but once a year refers to the spirit of generosity and goodwill that characterizes the Christmas season. The implication of the proverb is that people should spend this special time of year focusing more on giving rather than receiving.

Your story is to illustrate the title and is to have

- **An introduction**
- **The main part**
- **A conclusion**

It is to be clear, logical (use linking words) and it is to have some Christmas vocabulary.