

Christmas 2021 Labor Newsletter

Do you have any plans for Christmas or the New Year? We certainly hope you have a relaxing time and get to do something interesting or fun! Anyway, we thought you might like a Christmas Newsletter to read. We've got a story about Christmas with some idioms for you to learn. Have you ever wondered what a Christmas Cracker is? Kris will tell you all about them! How much do you know about Christmas Carols? Take our quiz and maybe go on the internet to find the lyrics to some famous songs. And learn about a typical X'mas in England.

So, we hope you enjoy it and learn a little. Don't forget to study some English over the holiday break!! Maybe with a classic Christmas movie? Home Alone, Miracle on 34th Street, or even Die Hard!



And let's have a great Year of the Tiger in 2022! *Justin, Kris, Mark & the part-timers*

A Christmas story

Well, it's Christmas time again. **Tis the season to be jolly.** So, you know what you should do? You should **deck the halls!** **Don't be left out in the cold.** Do it today! In England a lot of people wait until mid-December to put up decorations, but some people like to be the first in their area and put up decorations in November. One house in my village was always **lit up like a Christmas tree** by the first week of November.

Did you know that something that people in England often do in November is make a Christmas pudding. If you make it early, it should taste better on Christmas Day. But **the proof is in the pudding.** Sometimes it is too dry or goes moldy*. (カビ*)



Last year, **Christmas came early** for my son, literally. My uncle and aunt sent him a Christmas present. To save money they sent it by Surface Mail instead of Air Mail. The post office said it takes about 6 to 8 weeks so they sent it in October. Four days later, it was at our house! We thought it was for his birthday, which is also in October, so he was very surprised to find a Christmas card and present in the box! His face **lit up like a Christmas tree!** Speaking of presents, he said his best present last year was a pre-paid card for Nintendo. **Good things come in small packages,** as they say!

Anyway, **Christmas comes but once a year,** so be ready to help out a friend in need! And, of course, you should **ring in the New Year** with friends and family.



Can you match the idioms/proverbs with their meanings?

Tis the season to be jolly	Don't miss out on something
Deck the halls	This is a happy time of year so you should enjoy it
Don't be left out in the cold	Decorate for Christmas
Light up like a Christmas tree	You won't know if something is good until you try it
The proof is in the pudding	Get a happy surprise when not expecting it
Christmas came/has come early	Be very bright and jolly (decorations or someone's face)
Good things come in small packages	Stay up until midnight on Dec 31 st
Christmas comes but once a year	Bigger is not always better!
Ring in the New Year	It doesn't happen everyday, so make it special for people

Choose the best idiom/proverb:

A> My wife bought me an expensive bottle of sake and chocolates this summer. It wasn't my birthday or anything, just a regular day. (*Christmas came early!* / *Christmas comes but once a year.*)

B> My friends had a party last month and didn't tell me. (*I decked the halls.* / *I was left out in the cold!*)

C> I didn't believe that *matcha* was tasty. I thought it would be too bitter. I tried it and really liked it! (*The proof was in the pudding!* / *Good things come in small packages.*)

D> I didn't go on a big, expensive trip to Europe this year. I just spent one night at a small onsen in Shiga. But it was the most relaxing break I have ever had. (*Good things come in small packages.* / *The proof is in the pudding.*)

When is the last time your face **lit up like a Christmas tree**? How will you **ring in the New Year**? Are you **decking the halls**? Do you think **good things come in small packages**?

P.S. If you like learning new idioms, why not try our new course on Tuesday afternoons next term, which will be all about common idioms and phrases.

Christmas spirit

Let's talk about Christmas Western Style. Of course, different countries celebrate Christmas differently. In Australia Christmas is in summer, so people often celebrate by going to the beach! In England and America Christmas is in the winter and many of the habits and customs we share are similar. It's often a big family time where families get together. Shops and radio stations play Christmas songs ('Last Christmas', 'All I want for Christmas is you' etc.) while in the streets you might see groups of people singing carols (traditional Christmas songs). Shoppers buy Christmas gifts and presents from stores, which sometimes stay open until late (but usually close early on Xmas Eve and are mostly shut on X'mas day).

On Christmas Day most families get together to eat turkey with cranberry sauce and vegetables, and Christmas snacks such as mince pies, nuts, fruits, chocolates and more.

It is a feast where there is so much food that you can't eat it all. There's also lots of alcohol, like traditional eggnog, wine, champagne and more! Families often eat and drink while watching Xmas TV. In the afternoon in England there is the Queen's Speech followed by TV specials and X'mas movies. After dinner a lot of families eat a flaming Christmas pudding and/or Christmas cake. (*You might be able to find Christmas puddings or mince pies in Kaldi, Jupiter or Meiji-ya).

And that is Christmas Western style! I wish everyone a lovely X'mas, however you celebrate it! And a wonderful New Year! See you in 2022, Mark



Christmas for Justin's family



We start preparing in November when we make the Christmas pudding. It's traditional to stir the pudding mix while making a Christmas wish before cooking. We send Christmas cards around the start of December to make sure they arrive before Christmas. My parents usually have a real Christmas tree and we decorate it 12 days before Christmas. Some people go to church on Xmas Eve or X'mas Day (about 10%), but we don't. Many people also buy new clothes for Christmas Day. My mum makes mince pies on Christmas Eve. She also cooks ham and prepares the turkey. It starts cooking on a timer at 5am as it takes 5 or 6 hours! On Christmas Day my family gets up around 8:30. My mum checks the turkey and we have breakfast and open our Christmas presents, which are under the tree. We have turkey (recently salmon or beef is also popular) and all the trimmings at lunchtime, with X'mas pudding, and ham and salad for dinner. When I was young one set of grandparents came to our house on Christmas Day. The other grandparents came round on Boxing Day (Dec 26) and we had turkey and Christmas pudding again! Merry Christmas! Justin



Christmas Carol Quiz

Can you match the lyrics (words to a song) with the Christmas carol?

1. "Two turtle doves and A partridge in a pear tree"
2. "Dashing through the snow In a one-horse open sleigh"
3. "You better watch out You better not cry"
4. "All is calm All is bright"
5. "Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled!"
6. "Good tidings we bring To you and your kin"
7. "Had a very shiny nose And if you ever saw it"
8. "May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white"



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| A. Hark! The herald angels sing | (5) |
| B. White Christmas | () |
| C. The 12 days of Christmas | () |
| D. We wish you a Merry Christmas | () |
| E. Silent night | () |
| F. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer | () |
| G. Santa Claus is coming to town | () |
| H. Jingle bells | () |