

Celebrating Christmas



# **Celebrating Christmas**

Do you look forward to the holidays every year? In December multiple holidays and traditions are celebrated throughout the English-speaking world. The most widely celebrated of which is Christmas.

Below, you'll learn many phrases useful for talking about this holiday. Use them to find out what kind of family traditions others have and to talk about your own. Have a look at the following tables and get ready for the holidays!

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# **Asking About Christmas**

Here we've collected several questions related to Christmas that you can use to find out more about how others spend the holiday. They're also useful for starting conversations about Christmas. Take a look!

Do you celebrate Christmas?

How are you spending the holidays?

Do you guys put up a tree every year?

What kind of holiday traditions does your family have?

Does your whole family get together?

Have you done all your gift shopping yet?

What would you like to get over the holidays?

What's your favorite thing about the holidays?

What's the best gift you've ever received?

Do you like Christmas music?

What do you usually eat around Christmas?

### **ESSENTIAL PHRASES**

Celebrating Christmas



#### Do you guys put up a tree every year?

In English-speaking countries, and many other countries around the world, it's very common to put up a Christmas tree. This can either be a real tree or a fake tree. It's usually set up in the largest house in the room. Families decorate the tree before Christmas and gifts are laid under it on Christmas Eve.

#### Have you done all your gift shopping yet?

Gift giving is a very important Christmas tradition in English-speaking countries. Gifts are usually bought throughout December and exchanged with family, friends, and coworkers. A popular children's tradition is also writing a Christmas list. The child writes down all the gifts that they wish to get and then gives the list to family members. This list can then serve as inspiration for their Christmas shopping.

### **Talking About Christmas**

The following phrases are useful for talking about Christmas. Use them to tell others about your own Christmas traditions or to let people know more about you!

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!

Our family celebrates Christmas every year.

The whole family is getting together at my grandmother's to exchange gifts.

We like to put up a real tree in our living room a week before Christmas.

We bake cookies each year and go caroling with friends in the neighborhood.

Our family is pretty big, but we do all try to see each other during the holidays.

We always have a Christmas ham each year.

I still need to do my gift shopping!

I'd honestly really like to get some new socks this year!

My favorite thing about the holidays is that everyone is in a good mood.

I think the best gift I ever got was when my parents surprised me and my brother with a puppy.

I only listen to Christmas music in December.

#### **ESSENTIAL PHRASES**

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#### We bake cookies each year and go caroling with friends in the neighborhood

Two common Christmas traditions in English-speaking countries are baking Christmas cookies and caroling. In the United States families usually bake several kinds of cookies throughout December. On Christmas Eve a plate of them is left by the tree with a glass of milk for Santa Claus and some carrots for his reindeer. Caroling is when family and friends go door to door singing Christmas songs for their neighbors.

#### We always have a Christmas ham each year

There are lots of different foods traditionally eaten during Christmas. This can vary depending on the family's background and individual traditions. One dish however that is quite commonly served is a Christmas ham. It can be prepared in many ways, but it usually has a sweet glaze.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### What are the most essential English phrases for talking about Christmas?

How are you spending the holidays?
What kind of holiday traditions does your family have?
Have you done all your gift shopping yet?
What would you like to get over the holidays?
Do you like Christmas music?
Merry Christmas!

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Happy Holidays!

My favorite thing about the holidays is that everyone is in a good mood.

## What other holidays are celebrated in December?

Three common December holidays celebrated throughout the English-speaking world are Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated for eight nights and days usually in December. Kwanzaa is mainly celebrated in the USA and is an African-American holiday that lasts from the 26th of December until January 1st.

# **ESSENTIAL PHRASES**

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