

## Festivals: Christmas

by Katie Maunder

**Level:** Elementary. Cambridge YLE Movers, A1 level

**Target Age:** 8-10

**Time needed:** Approx 2 one hour classes for the 3 activities

**Materials needed (for Activity 1):** Coloured paper (A4); cardboard tube (10cm); string; squares, circles and stars for decoration; glue/sticky tape

**Classroom objectives:**

- learn about Christmas in England
- learn Christmas vocabulary
- practise following instructions
- practise activities for Cambridge YLE exams
- create a Christmas cracker
- revise and remember grammar rules through song

**Section/subject:** Christmas theme

Skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening

Exams: Cambridge YLE (Starters and Movers)

**Summary:** These activities include a short reading text about Christmas in England with vocabulary matching exercises. There is also a Christmas grammar revision song and a hands on activity making a Christmas cracker, with riddles to write and TPR activities. The level is set for 8-10 year olds with tasks based on the Cambridge Young Learners Exams (Starters and Movers).

### Activity 1

#### Make a Christmas cracker

The Christmas crackers are fun to make and children learn while doing a creative activity. They use Total Physical Response vocabulary (such as *roll*, *cut* and *stick*) and key Cambridge Movers vocabulary (such as *square* and *star*). These actions can be demonstrated by the teacher. The children also enjoy pulling the crackers and playing with them at the end of the class.

#### Follow-up activities

① Teachers sometimes worry that creative activities mean there is less language spoken. Add more English language input with this TPR activity to make the decorations. It also gives good practice for the Cambridge Young Learners listening exams where children must follow instructions and colour. Teacher tells the

students: "Draw 3 circles. Colour them blue. Cut out the circles. Stick them on the cracker. Draw 4 squares. Colour them red..." (Teacher can demonstrate if necessary)

② Making the hat to put inside the cracker practices TPR vocabulary (*cut*, *stick*). Children also practise writing / drawing the new Christmas words they have learnt.

③ Writing and answering riddles is a great game and practices the skill of paraphrasing. It also helps children prepare for the Cambridge Young Learners Starters exam (part 4).

### Activity 2

#### Song - Twelve days of Christmas

This song is a fun way to revise and remember key grammar rules as there is a lot of repetition. Also parents love it at the Christmas show! Sing it to the music

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of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which is a traditional English Christmas song.

Students can step forward with each card and sing their rule.

- ① Ask students to prepare and decorate 12 big cards with each of the 12 grammar rules and examples.
- ② Practise the song with the students.

<b>Is for the singular</b>  There <i>is</i> a dog.	<b>Are for the plural</b>  There <i>are</i> 2 cats.	<b>Don't forget the -s</b>  She <i>likes</i> football.
<b>Do you...?, Does he...?</b>  Do you like apples? Does he like apples?	<b>Do your homework!!</b>  Write about Christmas.	<b>Adjectives come first</b>  The <i>green</i> door.
<b>He is for boys</b>  He is a tall boy.	<b>She is for girls</b>  She is a pretty girl.	<b>-ed for the past</b>  I watched TV yesterday.
<b>Did for past questions</b>  Did you go to school yesterday?	<b>Will for the future</b>  I <i>will</i> pass my test tomorrow.	<b>Remember please and thank you</b>  Can I have a sweet <i>please</i> ? Thank you.

### Activity 3

Christmas in Britain

#### Pre-reading activity

Ask students questions about Christmas:

- When is Christmas? (Winter/December/ December 25th)
- What do you eat? (Meat/fish...)
- What presents do you like? (footballs, dolls, cars...)

#### Worksheet activities

- ① Students or teacher read *Christmas in Britain* and point to the pictures of the underlined words.
- ② Students read the definitions and write the words in the spaces. They find the secret word that goes down the page (*Christmas*).

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Answer key

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Carols           | 6. Stockings       |
| 2. Father Christmas | 7. Christmas trees |
| 3. Turkey           | 8. Crackers        |
| 4. Reindeer         | 9. Christmas Eve   |
| 5. Presents         |                    |

**Festivals: Christmas**  
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*You need:*

- Coloured paper (A4)
- Cardboard tube (10cm)
- String
- Squares, circles and stars for decoration
- Glue/sticky tape

*What to do:*

- ① Roll the paper round the tube and stick.
- ② Make a hat with coloured paper and decorate with Christmas words.
- ③ Fold the hat and put it in the tube.
- ④ Write a riddle on a small piece of paper (Example: It is an animal. It has big ears. It can run and jump. It likes carrots. What is it?)
- ⑤ Put the riddle in the tube.
- ⑥ Tie the ends of the cracker with string.
- ⑦ Decorate the cracker with squares, circles and stars.
- ⑧ Pull the cracker with a friend, give him the hat and ask him the riddle.

**Festivals: Christmas**  
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On the first day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Is for the singular.'

On the second day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Are for the plural.'

On the third day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Don't forget the -s.'

On the fourth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Do you...?, Does he...?'

On the fifth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Do your homework!!'

On the sixth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Adjectives come first.'

On the seventh day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'He is for boys.'

On the eighth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'She is for girls.'

On the ninth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'-ed for the past.'

On the tenth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Did for past questions.'

On the eleventh day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Will for the future.'

On the twelfth day of Christmas my teacher said to me:  
'Remember please and thank you!'

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## Christmas in Britain

Read the text below.

In Britain Christmas is very special. Families decorate their Christmas trees with pretty lights and sing Christmas carols. December 24th is Christmas Eve and children put stockings next to their bed. These are like big socks and in the morning they are full of presents from Father Christmas. They also put a plate of biscuits and a glass of milk under the Christmas tree for Father Christmas and an apple outside the door for his reindeer. On Christmas morning the plate is empty and there is no apple. There are also lots of presents under the Christmas tree. The children open their presents very early and play with them all day. The family eats turkey for Christmas lunch and pulls Christmas crackers, which have little presents, hats and jokes inside.

Match the underlined words above with their definitions below.

- ① Families sing these songs at Christmas.
- ② This happy old man brings everyone presents on Christmas Eve.
- ③ People eat this for Christmas lunch. It looks like a big chicken.
- ④ These are animals that take Father Christmas to children's houses.
- ⑤ Father Christmas gives these to good children.
- ⑥ Children put these big socks next to the bed.
- ⑦ They grow in forests and look pretty at Christmas.
- ⑧ People pull them and they have a hat and present inside.
- ⑨ The day before Christmas.

