



Vocabulary



Christmas Crackers



There is a banger inside the cracker and when it is pulled by two people, the cracker snaps in half with a bang. Inside the cracker there is a tissue paper hat, a joke and a little gift.



A Christmas ball



A tinsel



A Christmas stocking



A Christmas tree



A Christmas card



People around the world send Christmas Cards to their friends and family

An

Advent wreath



Father Christmas



Who is Father Christmas?

Father Christmas is the English version of Santa Claus (American). He is an old man with white hair, a beard and a moustache. He is dressed in a red suit outlined in white. Father Christmas and his elves make all the toys for Christmas in his home in the North Pole.

Christmas Day

This is the favourite day for all children. They wake up very early in the morning to find their stockings have been filled by Father Christmas and excitedly unwrap the presents before going down to breakfast.

Christmas Tea and Crackers

The afternoon/evening meal contains mince pies (see picture) and a Christmas cake. This cake is a rich baked fruit cake with marzipan, icing and sugar frosting.



Christmas Dinner

This main Christmas Meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or



early afternoon.

A traditional English Christmas dinner consists of **roast turkey** and stuffing, roast potatoes and vegetables, bread sauce, cranberry sauce and gravy, followed by Christmas pudding with brandy butter

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve (December 24) is traditionally the day for decorating churches and homes. It marks the beginning of the period formally known as Christmas-tide.

It is the time when Father Christmas / Santa comes.

The children leave mince pies and brandy for Father Christmas, and a carrot for the reindeer.

Children hang their Christmas stockings or bags up ready for Father Christmas, who will hopefully fill them up with presents, if the children have been good. The children then go to sleep and wait for Christmas morning to see if he has been.

Why do the children in England hang up Christmas stockings?

From 1870 children have hung up Christmas stockings at the ends of their beds or along the mantelpiece above the fireplace.

Father Christmas once dropped some gold coins while coming down the chimney. The coins would have fallen through the ash grate and been lost if they hadn't landed in a stocking that had been hung out to dry. Since that time children have continued to hang out stockings in hopes of finding them filled with gifts.



Christmas Carols

English people have special songs which they sing during the Christmas season. People go 'carol singing'. This is where people will go from house to house singing carols and collecting money for charity.

Boxing Day

Boxing Day is the following day after Christmas Day. It is also a national holiday in England. The name goes back to medieval times, more than 800 years ago, when alms boxes were placed at the back of every church to collect money for the poor. Traditionally, it is on this day that the alms box at every English church is opened and the contents are distributed to the poor.

