



Christmas activities for all levels

It's late December and Christmas is coming up. Our B2 First and C1 Advanced students will practise their speaking while they reflect on the importance of some aspects of Christmas. A2 Key and B1 Preliminary learners can get some Christmas ideas while they improve their reading skills. The youngest ones can have some fun while they talk to different classmates about Christmas activities. Happy teaching!

- 1. What is Christmas about?..... 2
- 2. Christmas plans 4
- 3. Find someone who..... 11
- 4. References..... 14





Activity 1 - What is Christmas about?

Level: B2 First / C1 Advanced

Skills: reading and speaking

Interaction: whole class and group activity

Time: 35 minutes



Warm up (10') – whole class activity

Christmas is a very festive season for some countries in the world, while others don't celebrate it at all. Let's talk about Christmas and non-Christmas-related activities people enjoy in winter-time.

- How much do you know about Christmas traditions?
- Are these traditions similar to the traditions where you live? If so, how?
- Do you have any special traditions that you share with your family and / or friends?
- Can you tell us about it?
- Do you make any non-Christmas related plans with friends and family during this time of the year?
- Can you tell us about them?

Speaking (15') – in groups of 3 (speaking done in pairs and the third member of the group should listen to provide feedback using the success criteria table below)

I'd like you to talk about something together.

Here are some aspects related to Christmas and a question for you to discuss. Talk to each other about aspects to consider when thinking about Christmas from a different and more inclusive perspective.





Follow up (10') – in groups of three

Students taking part in the conversation should reflect on:

- Something they felt comfortable with
- Something they found difficult
- Something they think they did well
- Something they think they could have done better

Then, they should share their reflections and listen to their classmate's feedback based on the success criteria.

B2 First Speaking Success Criteria			
Grammar and Vocabulary	Yes	No	Comments / Examples
Did your partner use simple grammar e.g. present simple, past simple, can?			
Did your partner use some complex grammar e.g. modal verbs, future tenses, conditionals, perfect tenses, phrasal verbs?			
Did your partner use synonyms?			
Did your partner repeat the same words several times?			
Discourse Management	Yes	No	Comments / Examples
Did your partner use longer sentences?			
Were there long pauses when your partner spoke?			
Did your partner speak about the task?			
Did your partner repeat their ideas?			
Did your partner use connectors such as and, but, so, because, although, however, moreover?			
Pronunciation	Yes	No	Comments / Examples
Could you understand your partner?			
Were there any problems with pronunciation that made communication difficult?			
Was intonation appropriate e.g. in questions, showing interest?			





Interactive Communication	Yes	No	Comments / Examples
Did your partner start the conversation sometimes and respond to your ideas?			
Did your partner help you reach a decision?			
Did your partner need some help when talking?			
Global Achievement	Yes	No	Comments / Examples
Did your partner handle communication on familiar topics despite some pauses?			
Did your partner organise their ideas in general?			
Were there any examples of incoherent ideas, inaccuracies and inappropriate use of grammar and vocabulary?			

Activity 2 – Christmas plans

Level: A2 Key / B1 Preliminary

Skills: reading and speaking

Interaction: whole class and individual activity

Time: 25 minutes



Warm up (10') – whole class activity

- What does Christmas look like in your home country / region / town?
- Are you a big fan of Christmas? Why (not)?
- Do you celebrate Christmas? If so, how?
- Do you make special plans for Christmas? Can you give us more information about them?

Reading (15') – individual activity

For each question, choose the correct answer.

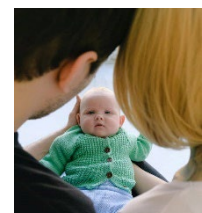
The people in the next page all want to make special plans during their Christmas / winter break. Further below there are descriptions of eight activities. Decide which activity would be the most suitable for each person.





CAMBRIDGE

1. **Lauren** recently moved to her city. While at work, she usually sits in front of a computer and does not have much opportunity to interact with colleagues. She is looking for an opportunity to meet new people and relax doing some crafts. She works from Monday to Friday until 6 pm except for Thursday when she finishes at 2 pm.
2. **Tom** is new in town and does not know many people. He enjoys Christmas decoration and spending time with his sausage dog. He is looking for an option to enjoy nature and the Christmas season.
3. **Chloe** is a mum of two and is looking for a plan to do with all the family as her parents are coming to spend some days at Christmas. She is thinking of inviting all the family for dinner so she is interested in an activity that can include people of all ages and is not very expensive.
4. **Amalia** is going on a trip to the UK with her family. She and her husband would like to enjoy the Christmas season while they and their children find out about the history and traditions of the country. She is worried about the cold weather and is looking for an option where they can spend some time indoors.
5. **Nick** is a big fan of Christmas songs. He is looking for an option that everyone in his family enjoys. He has a very young boy, so he is worried about spending too long outdoors. His wife travels a lot, so they want to book their tickets for the last weekend of November.



Where your world grows





CAMBRIDGE

A: Winter Lights

Winter Lights is a sensory, after-dark experience that brings to life the nature found at this beautiful place. See coloured lights illuminating the trees and sculptures inspired by wildlife. Projections and sounds will add to the immersive experience for a memorable evening out. From Friday 9 December 2022 to Sunday 8 January 2023, we invite you to join us for an enchanting, magical celebration of the natural world. Bring all the family and friends, dogs on a leash are welcome!

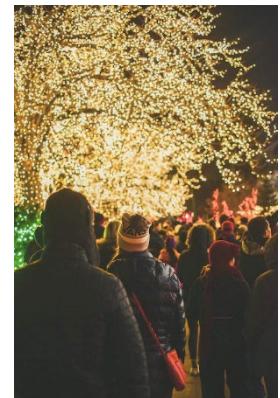
(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)



B: Christmas Light Show

Look forward to some time together with friends and family as you discover sparkling tunnels of light, then walk under giant baubles and beneath glistening trees drenched in jewel-like colour. Don't forget to glimpse Father Christmas along the way. Our crew of talented street food vendors bring a delicious twist to tempting treats on offer. From 1 December to 1 January 2023. Only guide dogs and assistance dogs are permitted.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)



C: Visit Father Christmas

Add a little magic to the festive season with a visit to see Father Christmas in his Christmas cottage. He's been preparing all year for the big day but he's making room in his busy schedule to come and chat with you. You can tell him your Christmas wishes and do some Christmas crafts. There will be a special baby and toddler storytelling and play session with Father Christmas. From 9 December to 23 December. Special discounts for families of four or more members.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)





CAMBRIDGE

D: Christmas Decoration

Discover a beautifully decorated family home ready for a joyful Christmas, filled with lights, trees and music. Outside, the Courtyard Christmas tree is lit with hundreds of twinkling lights, decorated by community artists. Don't miss the twilight openings, carols round the tree and fun trail for all the family. Book ahead for Santa's workshop at the top of the garden. From 19 November to 3 January.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)



E: A Classic Christmas

Unwrap a classic Christmas with festive experiences at The Argory as you step back in time to a Christmas of yesteryear. See the house dressed for a traditional Christmas. Trees, trinkets and garlands will decorate the rooms and the dining room table will be set for a celebratory festive feast. Experience what life was like for the MacGeough Bond family as they prepare for the festive period. See the house in a whole new light and hear how the family celebrated Christmas in the 1800's. Every weekend from Sunday 27 November to January 1.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)



F: Winter Carols

Step in from the winter chill and merrily sing the night away at a Christmas concert. Little ones will love the cheer of singing festive songs with family at carol services, and what better way to spend the season with friends than listening to a choir sing uplifting songs? There'll be plenty of mince pies for you to snack on as a band plays out the classics. Every Thursday from 1 December to January 1.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)



G: Craft workshops

Craft up some joy this Christmas. If you're looking for a wreath making workshop, this is the workshop for you. Join us to spread some Christmas cheer every Thursday from 27 November to 22 December. Price includes all materials and tools you need as well as tea and mince pie.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)





H: Christmas decoration workshop

Deck the house with handmade Christmas decoration after attending our Christmas craft workshop. If you are looking for an opportunity to make some crafts to decorate your house with, hand-make some cards for your loved ones or just chill out, this is the best workshop for you. Sunday mornings from 27 November to 22 December. Bring your own materials and tools, we will provide some tasty Christmas food. Dogs, welcome.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)



Speaking (15') – in groups of 3

Read the different options again.

- Are there similar activities where you live? If so, tell us about them.
- Have you taken part in similar activities? If not, would you like to? Why (not)?
- What would be a perfect plan for you?

KEY

1. G
2. A
3. C
4. E
5. D

A: Winter Lights

Winter Lights is a sensory, after-dark experience that brings to life the nature found at this beautiful place. See coloured lights illuminating the trees and sculptures inspired by wildlife. Projections and sounds will add to the immersive experience for a memorable evening out. From Friday 9 December 2022 to Sunday 8 January 2023, we invite you to join us for an enchanting, magical celebration of the natural world. Bring all the family and friends, dogs on a leash are welcome!

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)





B: Christmas Light Show

Look forward to some time together with friends and family as you discover sparkling tunnels of light, then walk under giant baubles and beneath glistening trees drenched in jewel-like colour. Don't forget to glimpse Father Christmas along the way. Our crew of talented street food vendors bring a delicious twist to tempting treats on offer. From 1 December to 1 January 2023. Only guide dogs and assistance dogs are permitted.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)

C: Visit Father Christmas

Add a little magic to the festive season with a visit to see Father Christmas in his Christmas cottage. He's been preparing all year for the big day but he's making room in his busy schedule to come and chat with you. You can tell him your Christmas wishes and do some Christmas crafts. There will be a special baby and toddler storytelling and play session with Father Christmas. From 9 December to 23 December. Special discounts for families of four or more members.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)

D: Christmas Decoration

Discover a beautifully decorated family home ready for a joyful Christmas, filled with lights, trees and music. Outside, the Courtyard Christmas tree is lit with hundreds of twinkling lights, decorated by community artists. Don't miss the twilight openings, carols round the tree and fun trail for all the family. Book ahead for Santa's workshop at the top of the garden. From 19 November to 3 January.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)

E: A Classic Christmas

Unwrap a classic Christmas with festive experiences at The Argory as you step back in time to a Christmas of yesteryear. See the house dressed for a traditional Christmas. Trees, trinkets and garlands will decorate the rooms and the dining room table will be set for a celebratory festive feast. Experience what life was like for the MacGeough Bond family as they prepare for the festive period. See the house in a whole new light and hear how the family celebrated Christmas in the 1800's. Every weekend from Sunday 27 November to January 1.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor's note)

F: Winter Carols

Step in from the winter chill and merrily sing the night away at a Christmas concert. Little ones will love the cheer of singing festive songs with family at carol services, and what better way to spend the season with friends than listening to a choir sing uplifting songs? There'll be plenty of mince





pies for you to snack on as a band plays out the classics. Every Thursday from 1 December to January 1.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)

G: Craft workshops

Craft up some joy this Christmas. If you’re looking for a wreath making workshop, this is the workshop for you. Join us to spread some Christmas cheer every Thursday at 5 pm from 27 November to 22 December. Price includes all materials and tools you need as well as some tea and minced pie to enjoy with the rest of the group.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)

H: Christmas decoration workshop

Deck the house with handmade Christmas decoration after attending our Christmas craft workshop. If you are looking for an opportunity to make some crafts to decorate your house with, hand-make some cards for your loved ones or just chill out, this is the best workshop for you. Sunday mornings from 27 November to 22 December. Bring your own materials and tools, we will provide some tasty Christmas food. Dogs, welcome.

(Adapted from National Trust – Editor’s note)





3. Find someone who...

Level: A1 Movers / A2 Flyers

Skills: speaking, listening and writing

Interaction: whole class activity

Equipment and materials: digital board

Time: 45 minutes



Warm up! (15') – whole class activity

- What Christmas songs and carols do you know?
- Do you like buying / making presents? Why (not)?
- Is there any food you like eating at Christmas? Why (not)?
- Do you usually travel during Christmas holidays? Why (not)?
- Can you play any winter sports?
- What Christmas traditions are there where you live?

Speaking, listening and writing (15') – whole class activity

People celebrate Christmas in different ways. Take a card and find someone in your class who can answer yes to your question. Ask them more about it. Then, be ready to tell the rest of the class.

Find someone who...

... can sing a Christmas song _____

Tell us more:

- Why do you like that song?
- Who taught you the song?
- When do you sing it?
- Your own question _____





Find someone who...

... buys or makes presents for their family / friends _____

Tell us more:

- **What was the last present you made / bought?**
- **Who did you give it to?**
- **How do you feel when you give a present? Why?**
- **Your own question**
- **Your own question _____**

Find someone who...

... eats special food at Christmas _____

Tell us more:

- **What do you eat?**
- **Who buys or makes that food?**
- **Do you like it? Why (not)?**
- **Your own question _____**





Find someone who...

... enjoys listening to Christmas carols / songs _____

Tell us more:

- What carols / songs are your favourite? Why?
- Where do you listen to them?
- Can you remember the first time you listened to them?
- Your own question _____

Find someone who...

... travels at Christmas _____

Tell us more:

- Where do you go?
- What do you do there?
- Who do you go with?
- Your own question _____

Find someone who...

... enjoys watching Christmas films _____

Tell us more:

- What is your favourite Christmas film? Why?
- Where do you watch them?
- Can you remember the first time you watched them?
- Your own question _____



Find someone who...

... plays a winter sport _____

Tell us more:

- **Where do you play?**
- **Why do you like it?**
- **Who do you play with?**
- **Your own question _____**

4. References

Adderley, C. (2018) *Close-up Photo of Christmas Tree* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/close-up-photo-of-christmas-tree-1671867/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].

Akvarel, V. (2018). *Standing Family near Fireplace* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/standing-family-near-fireplace-1648387/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].

Bauso, E. (2019). *Family of Four Walking at the Street* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/family-of-four-walking-at-the-street-2253879/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].

Blue Ox Studio. (2017). *People Standing Inside Church* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/people-standing-inside-church-730588/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].

Guerrero, D. (2018). *Person Walks Outdoor during Night* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/person-walks-outdoor-during-night-1682528/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].





- Martin, M. (2022). *Pistachios, Cones and String* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/pistachios-cones-and-string-10902031/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- Meyer, J. (2017). *Assorted Color String Lights* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/assorted-color-string-lights-752484/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- National Trust (n.d.a). Christmas choirs and concerts. *Christmas* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/christmas-choirs-and-concerts> [Accessed 20th October 2022].
- National Trust (n.d.b). Christmas craft workshops. *Christmas* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/christmas-craft-workshops> [Accessed 20th October 2022].
- National Trust (n.d.c). Christmas lights and winter illuminations. *Christmas* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/christmas-lights-and-winter-illuminations> [Accessed 20th October 2022].
- National Trust (n.d.d). Historic houses decked out for Christmas. *Christmas* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/historic-houses-decked-out-for-christmas> [Accessed 20th October 2022].
- National Trust (n.d.e). Visit Father Christmas. *Christmas* [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/christmas-lights-and-winter-illuminations> [Accessed 20th October 2022].
- Paggiaro, F. (2017). *Lots of Glitter on Top of Table* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/lots-of-glitter-on-top-of-table-733395/> [Accessed 25th October 2022]
- Pinilla, M. (2017). *Tan and White Basset Hound Near the Christmas Tree* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/tan-and-white-basset-hound-near-the-christmas-tree-754491/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].





- Pixabay (2017). *Portrait of Happy Girl with Ice Cream* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/portrait-of-happy-girl-with-ice-cream-247891/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- Pluma, E. (2021). *Orange and White Gifts on Brown Wooden Floor* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/orange-and-white-gifts-on-brown-wooden-floor-10342990/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- RODNAE Productions. (2021). *Christmas Wreath Hanging on Wooden Door with Glass Panel* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/christmas-wreath-hanging-on-wooden-door-with-glass-panel-6517962/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- Sayles, B. (2018). *Turned on Christmas Lights* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/turned-on-christmas-lights-1725331/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- Shvets, A. (2020). *Man in Black Shirt Carrying Baby* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-in-black-shirt-carrying-baby-3845344/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].
- Volk, J. (2020). *A Woman in Yellow Long Sleeves Wrapping a Gift* [image/jpeg]. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/a-woman-in-yellow-long-sleeves-wrapping-a-gift-5272208/> [Accessed 25th October 2022].

