

Vocabulary

public holiday • / bank holiday (BrE) / national holiday / religious holiday / special occasion / festival / celebration / tradition / Christmas markets / Easter markets / carnival / parade / fancy-dress party (BrE) / costume party (AmE)

Holidays: New Year's Day / Valentine's Day / Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day (BrE) / Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras (AmE) / Mothers' Day / St Patrick's Day / Father's Day / Good Friday / Easter Sunday/Monday / Independence Day (AmE) / Halloween / Bonfire Night (BrE) / Thanksgiving (AmE) / Christmas Eve/Day / New Year's Eve

Icons and Symbols: Father Christmas (BrE) / Santa Claus / Baby Jesus / nativity scene / Christmas decorations/cake/tree / stockings / mistletoe / holly / Easter Bunny / Easter eggs / cross / Jack o' Lantern (AmE) / pumpkin / skeleton / witch

Traditions: ring in the New Year / watch fireworks / sing Auld Lang Syne / have an Easter egg hunt / dye eggs / get dressed up / go trick-or-treating / send out Christmas cards / decorate the tree/ the house/flat (BrE)/apartment (AmE) / hang stockings / put on a nativity play / roast a turkey / kiss under the mistletoe

Christmas Presents: do your Christmas shopping / buy or get a present for someone / wrap presents / give someone a present / get a present from someone / get a present for Christmas / open or unwrap a present

Pair Discussion

Tell each other about what Christmas means to you. For example, you can think about what you do, where you go, and what you enjoy or dislike about Christmas. What do you have in common? What do you do differently?

* You can find a sample dialogue on the December 2016 CD.

Language for Likes and Dislikes

What I like most about it is...

One thing I don't like is...

I love that it is...

I always look forward to...

I don't like it when...

• Language Point

Holiday means a non-working day or a festival day, such as Christmas day or Halloween. British English speakers *also* use **holiday** for a long trip (AmE uses **vacation**) e.g. *We had a holiday in Croatia.* Also in British English, **the holidays** means any time a school is closed e.g. *The summer holidays in England are much shorter than in the Czech Republic.* **The holiday season** (AmE) means the time from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Personal Questions

- What's your favourite holiday and why do you like it?
- Do you ever dress up? What was your best ever costume?
- When do you do your Christmas shopping?
- What do you want to get for Christmas this year? What are you going to get for other people?

"I love [holiday] because we spend time together / go to church / have a party / stay up all night / visit family / get presents / eat a lot / I like baking cakes / making biscuits (BrE) / cookies (AmE)..."

"I usually make my own costumes / go to fancy-dress parties / go as something funny / scary. The best costume I ever made / wore was... because..."

"I do my Christmas shopping throughout the year / well in advance / at the last minute / on Christmas Eve / I've bought some presents / I haven't bought anything yet..."

"I hope to get a new tablet / I'm hoping to get a bike / some new clothes from my dad / I'm getting my dad a gift card / gift certificate (AmE) / gift voucher (BrE) to his favourite store / I'm giving my mum a nice scarf / some books..."

Bridge

