

# CHRISTMAS (XMAS)

For some people, Christmas is a welcome break at the end of the year, a time for eating, drinking and giving presents. For others, it is primarily a Christian festival, a celebration of the birth of Christ.



## 1. CHRISTMAS TIME

Which words are being defined?

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| a) t □ n □ □ l       | shiny material used for decorating Christmas trees                                |
| b) r □ □ □ n         | a small bird with a red chest that you often see on British Christmas cards       |
| c) c □ □ □ l         | a Christmas song  |
| d) m □ □ □ e p □ e   | a piece of pastry containing apples and raisins that people make at Christmas     |
| e) c □ □ □ k □ r     | a coloured tube with a party hat, riddle and small toy inside, popular in Britain |
| f) p □ □ t □ □ □ □ e | a funny play for young and old performed in Britain at Christmas                  |

## 2. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Connect these thoughts of a 6-year-old British child.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) If I'm good,   | 1. I'll hang a large sock at the end of my bed.           |
| b) I'll write a letter to Father Christmas (US: Santa Claus), | 2. Father Christmas will come down the chimney.           |
| c) Before I go to sleep on Christmas Eve,                     | 3. Father Christmas will bring me lots of great presents. |
| d) In the middle of the night,                                | 4. there'll be presents at the end of my bed.             |
| e) When I wake up in the morning,                             | 5. telling him which presents I'd like.                   |

## 3. AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

Choose the correct words.

Not only does Santa Claus come **(a) down chimneys / downstairs** in America — you can also find him in **(b) churches / shopping malls**. **(c) Department / Compartment** stores usually ask one of their male workers to dress up as Santa during the **(d) holiday / vacation** season. Children visit the local Santa to tell him what they want for Christmas. Sometimes they can also see Mrs Claus and Santa's **(e) reindeer / elves** — little men in green suits who make toys. Santa then brings the children their **(f) cards / presents** on Christmas **(g) Eve / Night**.

## 4. CHRISTMAS DINNER

Complete the text using the words below.

brandy ● course ● crackers  
gravy ● pudding ● spices ● sprouts

In Britain, many families have a traditional Christmas dinner. As soon as they sit down, they all pull their **(a)** \_\_\_\_\_ and put on their paper hats. The main **(b)** \_\_\_\_\_ is normally turkey, served with roast potatoes, Brussels **(c)** \_\_\_\_\_ and **(d)** \_\_\_\_\_. This is followed by Christmas **(e)** \_\_\_\_\_, a heavy dessert made of dried fruit and **(f)** \_\_\_\_\_ and soaked in **(g)** \_\_\_\_\_.

## 5. THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Read the text below and find the English equivalents for the German expressions.

In the fields near Bethlehem, there were shepherds watching over their flocks by night. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "I bring you tidings of great joy. There is born today a Saviour, Christ the Lord. You shall find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| a) <i>Christus der Herr</i>                   | _____                  |
| b) <i>Engel</i>                               | c) <i>Futterkrippe</i> |
| _____   | _____                  |
| d) <i>Ich verkünde euch eine große Freude</i> | _____                  |
| _____   | _____                  |
| e) <i>in Windeln gewickelt</i>                | _____                  |
| _____   | _____                  |
| f) <i>Schafherde</i>                          | _____                  |
| _____   | _____                  |

Answers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. a) tinsel; b) robin; c) carol; d) mince pie; e) cracker; f) pantomime                         | 4. a) crackers; b) course; c) sprouts; d) gravy; e) pudding; f) spices; g) brandy  |
| 2. a-3; b-5; c-1; d-2; e-4   | 5. a) Christ the Lord; b) angel; c) manger; d) I bring you tidings of great joy; e) wrapped in swaddling clothes; f) flock |
| 3. a) down chimneys; b) shopping malls; c) Department; d) holiday; e) elves; f) presents; g) Eve |  |

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