

A Quiz for Christmas

Task A

Work in your group and try to answer these questions.

1. Where can you find gift-wrapped shopping centres?
2. Why are the shopping centres decorated? What is the name of the small plant with white berries that is put above doors in the UK at Christmas?
3. What will happen if you stand under it?
4. What is the winter solstice?
5. What are the initials of the three wise men?
6. What gifts did they bring to the baby Jesus?
7. What special thing do the people of Granada do at Christmas?
8. Why do they do it?

Task B

Grammar Quiz

Look closely at the text and:

1. Find and underline 6 examples of a conditional sentences.
2. Which conditional are they?
3. Do the conditionals refer to something that is in the past, present, future or generally true?
4. Find and underline 1 modal verb which means that something is 100% sure.
5. Find and underline 3 different modal verbs that mean that something is uncertain / possible.
6. Find and underline 1 modal verb that is used to give advice.
7. Find and underline 4 passive verb constructions.

Task C

Write a text about what happens in your country at New Year.

Try to include:

- 2 first conditional sentences
- 1 modal verb to express 100% certainty
- 2 modal verbs to express uncertainty
- 1 modal verb to give advice
- 2 passive verb structures

Text

Christmas Around the World

(Paragraph 1)

It seems that each year Christmas starts earlier and becomes more commercialised. The typical image of Father Christmas in his black boots, red suit and white beard must be recognised in almost every country in the world nowadays, but despite this Christmas is still celebrated in different ways in different countries and many still retain their own individual customs both new and old.

(Paragraph 2)

If you spend this Christmas in Singapore you might be surprised to see some of the huge shopping centres there wrapped up as Christmas presents or decorated from top to bottom like huge cakes or Christmas trees. This is because every year the government gives a prize for the best decorated building in the country.

(Paragraph 3)

If you're in the UK you may find yourself standing beneath a small green plant with white berries on. If you do you should be careful because someone may try to kiss you. Kissing under the mistletoe is a British tradition that goes back much further than Christmas to when the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, was still celebrated as a religious day.

(Paragraph 4)

If you're in the Austrian countryside you may see the letters C, M and B written on the doors of the farmer's stables. These are the initials of the three wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, that are said to have visited the new born Jesus bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is because the farmers believe that putting these letters on the door will protect their animals from sickness in the year to come.

(Paragraph 5)

If you see people jumping across a bonfire this Christmas it could be because you're in Granada in Spain. Where some people still believe that if they jump through the flames of the fire they will be protected from illness for the year to come.

(Paragraph 6)

So while businesses and advertisements may be trying to sell us all the same image of a man in a red suit, people in many countries of the world still follow the ancient traditions that make Christmas such a wonderful event.