

Christmas for Very Young Learners

Topic

Christmas

Aims

- To practise Christmas vocabulary
- To develop learners' listening and speaking skills
- To develop learners' motor skills and have fun doing a craft activity

Age

Early years (3–6 years)

Time

60 minutes approximately

Materials

1. Flashcards (select five flashcards; two sets for the teacher and two sets per pair of learners required): <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/flashcards/christmas-flashcards>
2. Activity sheet (stage 5): one per learner
3. Song (stage 6): ready to play on either YouTube or on a computer / MP3 player / other device (unless intending to sing)
4. Craft materials (stage 7): red and/or green A4 card (one per learner), simple outline images of the Christmas vocabulary on white paper (a bit smaller than A5, one per learner), inserts with a Christmas message (smaller than A5, one per learner)
5. Stickers (stage 9): vocab items printed onto sticky labels (one label per learner) – optional

For a complete list of all 'Christmas' content on LearnEnglish Kids, click here:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/category/topics/christmas>

Introduction

In this lesson, children practise Christmas words with flashcard activities and games. Then they listen to and sing a simple traditional Christmas song. Finally children make a Christmas card which they can take home to show their family.

Procedure

1. Entry routine (5 mins)

- Welcome the learners into the room in the usual way and do your regular start-of-class routine.

2. Introduce vocabulary (5 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select five flashcards (e.g. present, snowman, star, tree, reindeer) from the set on LearnEnglish Kids. • Learners sit in front of you on the floor at the front of the class. Lay the chosen flashcards face down on the floor or board as appropriate. Ask learners if they know what holiday is coming. Invite learners to choose a card to turn over (you could number them with digits to recycle number vocabulary) and say 'Ah! This is a ...' for each picture. For each picture, ask more questions, such as 'What colour is it?', 'Is it big or small?', 'How many are there?', 'Have you got a ... at home?'
3. Practise vocabulary (5 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a flashcard in each hand and say the word for either the left or right card. Learners point to the one you say. Say it again and the learners repeat. Say the other word and learners repeat. Hold one of the flashcards up high and learners say the word. Repeat for the other flashcard. • Now repeatedly alternate holding the flashcards up to elicit the word from the learners, slowly at first and then get faster – to the point where it's too fast for them to keep up! • Do this again with the other flashcards until all words have been practised.
4. Play a game (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the flashcards out on the floor or board face down again. Ask the learners to guess what each card is. Take a peek and give clues, e.g. 'No, it's not a snowman. It's green.' • Now play picture-picture Pelmanism. Demonstrate on the floor or board. Mix up two sets of the pictures and lay them in a grid face down. Talk as you go through the demo, e.g. 'This one is a present. Is this one a present too? Oh no, it's a snowman! Your turn!' • You could run the demo as a whole class game of Pelmanism, e.g. divide the class into two teams or ask learners individually to suggest the next card, especially if they haven't played Pelmanism before. • Once learners have the idea from the demo, they can play in pairs or threes. Give out the learner sets. Circulate and encourage learners to say the words as they turn over the cards and to try to use functional language for the game, e.g. 'Your turn!'
5. Activity sheet (5–10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a simple page with each Christmas picture reproduced a different number of times (e.g. five trees, three snowmen, etc.). Here is an example: https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/worksheets/christmas/christmas-counting-practice.asp • Learners count how many there are of each picture and either write the digit or draw a line to match to the correct digit, depending on ability. Next to the digit, you may wish to put the word in either trace font (for learners to trace) or bubble writing (for learners to colour). • Fast finishers can colour the pictures. • Do whole class feedback on the answers – learners can jump and repeat the words the correct number of times, e.g. if there are three snowmen, they can jump and shout 'snowman' three times.

6. Song (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We Wish You a Merry Christmas is a simple, traditional Christmas song. Decide in advance whether you want to teach more than just the first verse or not. Many versions are available on YouTube, some with extra verses and some without. Here are two examples: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fx_YhGJYx4w https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXbUlaIVTcc • Play the song, or sing it yourself! Ask learners if they like the song or have heard it before. • Sing each line and ask the learners to repeat. Then assign one line to a pair or group of learners, and each pair sings their line to make the whole song. Repeat, varying which pair/group gets different lines. • Now sing the whole song, slowly, and encourage all the learners to sing along with you. Finally, you can try singing along to the music.
7. Craft: Christmas card (10–15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare very simple outline images of the Christmas vocabulary on white paper (a bit smaller than A5) and A4 card in red or green. Under the picture you may wish to put the word in either trace font (for learners to trace) or bubble writing (for learners to colour) depending on ability. • Also print inserts on paper (smaller than A5) to stick inside the card, with the message 'We wish you a merry Christmas!' (again, you may wish to use trace font or bubble writing) and space for learners to put their names underneath. If learners are unable to write their names, they could even 'sign' with a thumb- or handprint, if you wanted to involve kid-safe washable inks or paints in the lesson. Alternatively, print individual inserts with each learner's name in trace font or bubble writing. • Assemble a card as a demonstration: Fold a red or green piece of A4 card in half. Cut out and stick the picture of your choice on the front. Colour it in. Stick the message inside and write your name. Talk and ask questions as you go through the demo. 'OK, so I choose green for my card. Now, I need to choose a picture. Hmm, I think I'll choose a tree! What do I need now, everyone? That's right, scissors and glue!' • Circulate and encourage the learners to use functional language ('Can I have ...', 'I need ...', 'What's next?', etc.) throughout the activity. Remember to praise learners too as they produce the card. • Fast finishers can further decorate the card, or be classroom helpers and collect the equipment or put the paper cut-offs in the recycling box. Encourage them to use functional language with their classmates ('Can I have your scissors?', 'Do you need this glue?', etc). • During this activity you could play the song in the background, either on a loop or along with other Christmas songs. If the learners want to sing along while making their card, great!
8. Round off activity (5 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Simon Says: Play using the structure 'Be a ...' e.g. be a tree, be a reindeer. If appropriate, the learners can take turns at being 'Simon'. Alternatively, sing the song again!

**9. Exit routine
(5 mins)**

- Do your regular end-of-class routine. If you are able to, you could print the Christmas vocabulary onto a sheet of sticky labels, one picture per label. As learners leave, ask them what their favourite word was and give them a label with that picture.
- Alternatively, show them one of the flashcards, then praise them and say 'Merry Christmas!' when they produce the word.

Contributed by

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