

Christmas presents and decorations

Topic

Christmas

Aims

- To practise and extend learners' Christmas vocabulary
- To develop learners' listening and speaking skills
- To develop learners' motor skills and have fun making craft activities

Age

Younger primary (7–9 years)

Time

60 minutes approximately

Materials

1. Flashcards
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/flashcards/toys-flashcards>
2. Word games: 'Christmas 1' and 'Christmas 2'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-1>
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-2>
3. Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'Santa's little helper'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/santas-little-helper>
4. Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'The busy elf'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/the-busy-elf>
5. Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'Santa, Santa, high in the sky'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/santa-santa-high-the-sky>
6. Craft activity: 'Snowflake'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowflake>
7. Craft activity: 'Snowman'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowman>
8. Craft activity: 'Christmas tree'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/christmas-tree>
9. Worksheets: 'Christmas'
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/christmas>

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

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

Introduction

In this lesson children practise Christmas words with flashcards and an online game. Then they enjoy a Christmas song or story and make a craft.

Procedure

1. Flashcards (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tip: If you need to set up as the learners arrive have a 'holding activity' to hand out to your learners. Give them a worksheet or an activity book task that they can do without help to give you a couple of minutes to get organised. • Ideally have children sitting in a semicircle. If you can't move tables and chairs they could stand in a semicircle. • Pretend through mime to pull toys out of a big sack. Show a flashcard and say 'I've got a football/board game/doll ... etc', 'Do you like footballs/board games ...?'. Learners put their hands up if they like the toy. • Now show the flashcards one by one, say the word and learners repeat. • Play a flashcard game. Hold up a card with the picture covered by the reverse side of another card. Expose just a corner and then expose the picture little by little. Encourage learners to guess what the picture shows (hands up). Give the card to the learner who guesses correctly. Collect in the cards by asking 'Can I have a ____, please?' • Tell learners to ask you for a card using 'Can I have a ____, please?' Give out the cards if the question is asked correctly. Now learners take turns to ask classmates the same question.
2. Online game (5 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play one of the Christmas word games, depending on the level of your class. • Play in teams or choose volunteers who are sitting quietly and being good to come to the front and have a turn.
3. Song or story (10–15 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you and your learners prefer a song or a story? Use either the 'Santa's little helper' story, 'The busy elf' song or the 'Santa, Santa, high in the sky' song. • With the story, you can pause periodically and ask questions about it, e.g. 'What's Santa wearing?', 'How many reindeer are there?', 'What colour is the reindeer's nose?' and so on. • There's a worksheet under the story to complete in class if time allows. • With the song, first play it all the way through. Do they like it? Play it again and use the pause button, asking learners to repeat after each line. • Play the song again and ask learners to join in with just the last words of each line. • Now divide the class into two groups, and each group sings alternate lines. • You can print the words for learners to take home and practise with their family.
4. Crafts (20–30 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose either the snowflake, snowman or Christmas tree craft. Make it in advance. • Show your learners the craft and ask them questions. 'What colour is it?', 'Do you like it?', 'Would you like to make one?', 'What materials do we need?' • Revise vocabulary for doing craft activities, e.g. scissors, glue, colours, paper. Encourage learners to use English as much as possible when doing arts and crafts, e.g. 'Can I have some glue, please?', 'What do I do next?', 'Can you help me?', 'I've finished!'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tip: Give early finishers a worksheet to keep them on task. Here you could give them one of the 'Christmas' worksheets.
5. Action game (5 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play a game of run and touch. Put the flashcards around the classroom, then give instructions 'Run to the doll', 'Swim to the board game', 'Hop to the football'. Hectic, but fun!

Contributed by

Sally Trowbridge