



Christmas in Great Britain



You've probably all heard about what Christmas is like in Great Britain, but I'm going to take you into an English family's home, where we celebrated Christmas last year. Christmas Day is on the 25th December, but preparations start long before then. The Christmas tree is put up from the 1st December onwards and Christmas cards are written and sent to relatives and friends all over the world. The cards which then arrive through the post are put onto the mantelpiece or hung on the walls.

However, the night before Christmas is the most exciting part of the preparations. Let me tell you what happened in Essex: The children started to get very excited. First of all they sat down and each of them wrote a card for "Father Christmas". After that they sorted out the gifts which had been specially prepared for him, and put everything in front of the fireplace (because this is how he gets into the houses – he comes down the chimney). The children put down carrots, Brussels sprouts and water for the reindeer and chocolate and a glass of wine for "Santa".



We then read the children a very famous Christmas story "The Night before Christmas" – a story about how "Father Christmas" comes in the middle of the night and leaves presents for everybody. (After this story the children in Britain, are usually so excited that they can't get to sleep)! The children then went off to bed and waited for "Father Christmas" to come.

Needless to say, nobody managed to sleep because they were all waiting and hoping to see "Santa". Eventually, they all fell asleep and everywhere was quiet for a change ;-). Well it was until 2.30 a.m. when suddenly there was a terrible noise – was Santa there already?. No, he wasn't. It was the children all wanting to get up and go downstairs. Obviously, they were all sent back to bed!

At 7a.m. they all appeared again, extremely excited and waiting to see if "Santa" had come. So we all got up and went, in our best clothes – pyjamas – into the lounge. British parents don't have time to get dressed up because the children won't wait!

Well, we all went in and would you believe it, there were presents lying all over the place and !!!! there was a terrible mess in front of the fireplace.



Coal was lying around on the floor and there were half eaten pieces of carrots and sprouts. The chocolate had been opened and a sip of the wine had been drunk. So “Father Christmas” does exist after all????!!!



Later on in the day, we sat down at the table for lunch. In Great Britain they have “crackers” on the table.

Everybody held one and after the count of three they were pulled. There was a loud cracking noise and things went flying through the air!



We put on the paper hats which had been in the crackers and then tucked into a very jolly Christmas lunch of turkey, roast potatoes, vegetables, sausages, bacon and gravy all served with a delicious sage and onion stuffing. That was followed by an English Christmas pudding and creamy brandy sauce, which can be extremely filling, but which I thoroughly enjoyed.

So you see, Christmas is celebrated in different ways all around the world!



1 -What is put up from 1st December onwards?

- A The Christmas tree.
- B The plates for Christmas lunch
- C The sign in front of the house to say it's for sale.

2 - What is written and sent to friends and relatives?

- A A card to say that they are poorly and that they are not going to have a Christmas party after all.
- B Christmas Cards... (obvious??? Remember, there's always a trick somewhere).
- C An invitation to a Halloween Party.

3 - Where are the cards hung ?

- A On the fridge, to stay cool, so they don't go off.
- B On the television because that's where they are all seen, because of sky digital that everybody likes watching
- C On the mantelpiece, because there's nowhere else to put the bloomin things.

4 - What's the most exciting part of the preparations?

- A The time when things start to fall off the Christmas tree,
- B The two days before Christmas, because the big preparations are nearly ready
- C The night before Christmas

5 - What had been specially prepare

- A A cucumber filled with poison (gift)
- B A Punch and Judy show
- C Some gifts for Father Christmas and Rudolph the red nosed reindeer (had a very shiny nose, and if you ever... oh sorry...*g*)

6 - What is the story called which English parents read to their children on Christmas Eve ?

- A Terminator 3
- B The Burning Christmas Tree.
- C The Night before Christmas.

7 - What had been opened by Father Christmas in this story?

- A The chocolate and the cards.
- B The crackers and the presents.
- C The fridge and a bottle of milk.

8 - Who can't usually sleep because they are too excited?

- A The children.
- B Father Christmas.
- C The reindeers.

9 - What was lying around the next morning?

- A A load of rubbish.
- B Lots of presents.
- C Father Christmas and his reindeer.

10 - What is celebrated in a different way all round the world?

- A Halloween
- B Christmas
- C A birthday

