



## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas is fast approaching, but never fear, we can offer you an exciting (and tasty) range of activities for the festive season.

### 1 Presents for the famous

#### Version One (A1 upwards; 20+ mins)

Tell your students they are going shopping for Christmas presents for the famous.

Give each student five slips of paper and ask them to write the name of a famous person (living or dead, real or fictional) on each one. You might like to have a few names in your head, in case students go blank: for example, Angela Merkel, David Beckham, Heidi Klum, Gloria Princess of Thurn and Taxis, Jimi Hendrix, Marie Curie, Pippi Longstocking, Pope Benedict, Queen Victoria, Robinson Crusoe, Steve Jobs, Til Schweiger. (You can of course prepare a list of names beforehand, if you wish.)

Write two or three names on slips of paper, so you can model the activity for your students.

Gather the students' slips of paper.

Divide the class into groups of four.

Distribute the slips of paper making sure that no-one has their own paper. Place them face down on the table.

Model the activity. Use your own two or three names and read the first one out loud to the whole class: *What present would (Prince William) like?* You could suggest a helicopter because he is a helicopter pilot. Or a crown. Encourage as many answers as possible (realistic or not). Then read out your other names and ask the students to suggest possible presents.

In their groups, each student picks up a piece of paper, reads out the name and each student makes a suggestion for a present.

#### Version Two (A2 upwards; 20+ mins)

Do as above, but before the lesson cut out pictures of possible presents from magazines (advertising catalogues are very useful for this). You could have a picture of a pair of boots, a game of chess, a leather armchair, a teapot, a watch and so on.

As well as distributing the names of the famous people, also distribute the pictures, face down. Then when the student reads out the name, he / she turns up a picture and has to explain why this present would be appropriate.

Model the activity for the class. Say: (*Prince William*) and (*a radio*). *Prince William would like a radio for Christmas because he could listen to the news about his grandmother.*

## 2 BINGO! (A2 upwards; 20+ mins; you can play more than once)

Make one copy of the bingo board (see Worksheet on the last page) for each student.

Ask the students to read through the words and help them with any unknown vocabulary.

Ask them to choose five words on the board and circle them. It might be sensible for them to use a pencil, so they can erase their crosses and circles after each game – or you could take in multiple copies of the bingo board.

Then start to read out definitions of each word, for example, *This is a song you sing at Christmas.* (carol) Or you could give the German translation of a word, e.g.: *In German we call this 'Stechpalme'.* (holly) Or do a gap fill, e.g.: *On Christmas Day, we always watch a film on the \_\_\_\_\_.* (television)

Make sure you keep a record of which words you have called out.

If a student has the word you've called out, he / she should draw a cross in the corresponding box.

Keep reading out your definitions / translations / sentences until someone has all five words he / she has circled. The first person who has all of his / her five words described should shout BINGO! (Check he / she has identified the correct words.) Carry on until everyone has shouted BINGO!

After playing twice, if you think one of your students is confident enough, he / she could have a turn at being the 'caller' and you just need to monitor.

Extension activity: Ask students to work in pairs and make their own sentences using the words and discuss which words are important for them at Christmas.

## Easier BINGO! (A1 students; 15+ mins)

Use the smaller board on the Worksheet (see last page), the 4x4 board (16 words). Play as above.

### 3 Jumbled ingredients (A1 and upwards; 10 mins)

We all eat lots of delicious food at Christmas – sometimes too much! Help work off a couple of extra calories with this activity.

If you can, bring in a picture of a turkey Christmas dinner, some mince pies and a trifle. These are popular dishes at Christmas in the UK.

- Here's a link to trifle <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifle>.
- Here's a link to mince pies [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mince\\_pie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mince_pie).

Show the pictures to the students and explain the ingredients for each dish. Remember that mince pies are sweet.

Write the names of the dishes on three pieces of card and stick them with their respective photos on the wall in three different locations around the room:

**Christmas dinner**                      **mince pies**                      **trifle**

Slowly read out the following words one by one, and ask students to stand by the correct dish. Let the students talk to each other and translate where necessary.

**apple**                      **butter**                      **carrots**                      **cream**                      **custard**                      **flour**  
**gravy**                      **jelly**                      **potatoes**                      **raisins**                      **sherry**                      **turkey**

**Key:**

Christmas dinner: carrots, gravy, potatoes, turkey;

mince pies: apples, butter and flour (for the pastry), raisins;

trifle: cream, custard, jelly, sherry

When students have chosen their 'dish', tell them whether it is correct or not, before reading out the next ingredient.

If your students are reluctant to move too much, then divide them into two or three groups and appoint a writer for each group. Write the three 'dishes' on the board. Read out the words and ask them to write the ingredients on the board under the correct headings. Encourage the groups to discuss the answers between themselves.

Extension activity: Ask students what they like eating at Christmas and to name some of the ingredients.

**4 What are you doing? (A2 and upwards; 15 mins)**

Practise these Christmas and winter activities.

Make enough copies for groups of three students. Cut up the 14 activity cards.

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| building a snowman           | wrapping presents             |
| drinking some Glühwein       | skiing                        |
| ice skating                  | decorating the Christmas tree |
| opening presents             | watching television           |
| sledging                     | eating Christmas dinner       |
| getting dressed for the snow | singing carols                |
| walking in snow              | shopping for presents         |

Divide the class into groups of three. Use some Christmas vocabulary to do this. If you have twelve students, go round the class and say: *candle* (pointing at student one), *present* (pointing at student two), *turkey* (pointing at student three), *reindeer* (pointing at student four), *candle* (pointing at student five) and so on until you have pointed at student twelve. Then the students need to find the other members of their groups: candles, presents, turkeys and reindeers.

Give each group the 14 activities face down. Tell them they are going to mime some Christmas and winter activities. Model the game by asking a more confident student to mime (baking Christmas cookies). Encourage students to ask questions, using the present progressive: What is he / she doing? He's / She's making something. He's / She's cooking. Then write on the board 'making Christmas cookies'. Say: *He's / She's making Christmas cookies*.

In their groups of three, students take it in turns to read one of the Christmas / winter activities and then act it out while the others guess.

**5 Jingle bells (A1 and upwards; 15+ mins)**

(NB: You'll find the words (and the German translation) on the last page of the *Now A1 Teacher's Resource Book*.)

Nearly everyone knows this song, so you shouldn't have much difficulty finding students who can shout out some of the words, although they might not know every word or be completely accurate.

If you have a copy of the song, play the chorus and first verse through. You can find a YouTube version here with the words included:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeNJmOsBS94>

Write 'Jingle bells' on the board. Then let students call out the next line. Keep writing on the board as they shout, making sure that what you write is accurate. Be careful not to let one student dominate. As you are writing, ask students to write the words down in their notebooks, too. If you have a copy of the song, you could play it a second time before you start writing the verse.

When you have a complete text (see in the box on the next page), you can start to sing.

If the students are confident enough, you can divide the class up into 'word' groups.

Write these words on separate pieces of paper:

Jingle; bells; all the way; Oh what fun; it is to ride; on a one horse; open sleigh.

Distribute the words amongst pairs of students or to individual students, if they are confident enough to sing alone.

Tell the students they have to pay attention and should only sing (or speak) when it is their turn. (The verse is sung together.) You will need to 'conduct' and make sure the right people are singing at the right time.

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one horse open sleigh (this is repeated)

Dashing through the snow  
In a one horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bob tails ring  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to laugh and sing  
A sleighing song tonight

And if you want even more activities, then how about writing a round robin? Click here to find a suitable activity for this: <http://www.klett-sprachen.de/network-now>

Or, to have a look at other Christmas activities, click here:

<http://www.klett-sprachen.de/network-now>

Whatever you choose, we wish you happy lessons, happy holidays and a very merry Christmas!

**Worksheet**

**Christmas Bingo (A2)**

|          |           |            |           |           |
|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| star     | party     | candle     | clothes   | mistletoe |
| present  | bell      | snow       | baby      | frost     |
| Santa    | robin     | carol      | card      | sleigh    |
| turkey   | sherry    | church     | tree      | reindeer  |
| crackers | mince pie | television | holly     | sack      |
| chimney  | family    | shopping   | tradition | cooking   |



**Christmas Bingo (A1)**

|         |        |        |         |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| star    | party  | candle | clothes |
| present | bell   | snow   | baby    |
| Santa   | robin  | carol  | card    |
| turkey  | sherry | church | tree    |