

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING

*Drodzy nauczyciele języka angielskiego!!!*

*Chyba nietaktem byłoby przekonywanie kogokolwiek, jak ważne w nauczaniu języka obcego, jest zaznajamianie naszych uczniów z kulturą i tradycjami krajów anglojęzycznych. Poszerzanie horyzontów myślowych naszych ulubieńców nie musi być wcale przykrą koniecznością. Wszak nastolatki na całym świecie żadne są wiedzy i poznania nowego na wszelkie możliwe sposoby.*

*Święta Bożego Narodzenia zbliżają się wielkimi krokami. Daje nam to możliwość pokazania uczniom jak piękne tradycje i obyczaje Bożonarodzeniowe królują w ciągu tych kilku dni na całym świecie. Mam nadzieję, że tych kilka ciekawych ćwiczeń pomoże Wam urozmaicić zajęcia języka angielskiego. Być może Wasi uczniowie chętnie dowiedzą się skąd pochodzi zwyczaj rozdawania całusów pod jemiolą czy kto wręcza prezenty w Syrii...*

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!

### EXERCISE 1

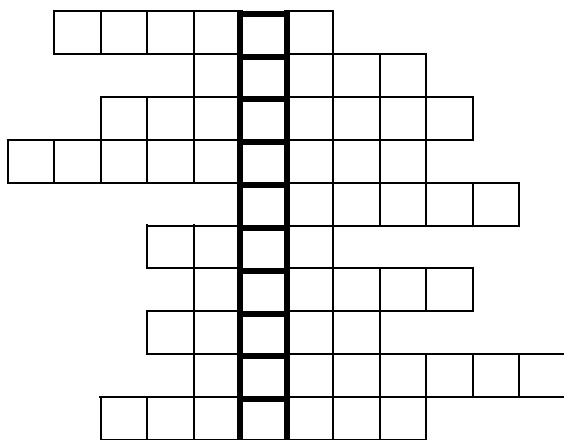
Match the halves of the paragraphs together:

<b>1</b>	Many Christmas customs are based on the birth of Christ. Such as giving presents because of the Wise Men,	<b>A</b>	started in Germany. As the Germans settled in new lands they brought with them this tradition.
<b>2</b>	But some of the ways people celebrate Christmas have nothing to do	<b>B</b>	They celebrated this holiday by making great fires. Then they would dance around the fires, yelling for the winter to end.
<b>3</b>	It wasn't until about 200 years after Christ's death that Christians even thought about celebrating his birth. No one knows the exact date	<b>C</b>	There are stories that he often helped children in need. Many years after his death, Nicholas was made a saint. In time, he became the patron saint of children.
<b>4</b>	Saturnalia, was the Romans holiday that they celebrated in December. It was a time of feasting and parties. Also, in northern Europe there was a holiday known as Yule.	<b>D</b>	who brought presents to the baby Jesus. Christmas carols based on Christ's birth and scenes of the birth with figures of shepherds, the Wise Men and animals.
<b>5</b>	In time, Christmas took the place of these holidays. But people kept some of the old customs – such as burning a Yule log and	<b>E</b>	of his birth. It is believed that December the 25 <sup>th</sup> was chosen to turn people away from celebrating other holidays in this time of the year.
<b>6</b>	As time went on, new customs crept into Christmas. One was the Christmas tree, which was	<b>F</b>	with Christ's birthday. Many bits of older holidays have crept into Christmas!
<b>7</b>	Last but not least is Saint Nicholas. A long time ago, a bishop named Nicholas lived in what is now the country of Turkey. No one knows much about him.	<b>G</b>	having feasts and parties. The word Yule is still used as a name for the Christmas season.

*Yule – the festival of Christmas*

## EXERCISE 2

Do the crossword:



1. Jesus ...
2. A song that people sing at Christmas
3. A big animal that lives in very cold countries
4. Something that people have done for a very long time
5. The period of four weeks before Christmas
6. A large bag full of presents
7. Santa's car
8. A kind of decoration that people put on a Christmas tree
9. Something that happens when you do not expect this
10. Something that you give to someone

## EXERCISE 3

Listen to the song and complete the text:

### The little drummer boy

Come 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ born 3 \_\_\_\_\_ to see  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 Our finest gifts 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 To lay 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 Rum, pum pum pum, rum, pum pum pum  
 So, to honour Him  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 When 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Baby Jesus  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 7 \_\_\_\_\_ a poor 8 \_\_\_\_\_ too  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 I have no 9 \_\_\_\_\_ to bring  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 That's fit to 10 \_\_\_\_\_ our 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 Rum, pum pum pum, rum, pum pum pum

Shall I 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 On my 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
 14 \_\_\_\_\_ nodded  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 The ox and Lamb kept time  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 I 15 \_\_\_\_\_ my 16 \_\_\_\_\_ for Him  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 I 17 \_\_\_\_\_ my 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 for Him Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 Rum, pum pum pum, rum, pum pum pum

Then He 19 \_\_\_\_\_ at me  
 Pa-rum, pum pum pum  
 Me and my drum.

### Vocabulary:

Gift – *prezent*  
 To lay – *położyć*  
 To honour – *uhonorować*  
 To fit – *pasować*  
 To nod – *pokiwać głową*  
 The Ox and Lamb – *wół i jagnię*

## EXERCISE 4

Answer the questions:

1. **Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:**
  - A. 1492
  - B. 1895
  - C. 1944
  - D. 1976.
2. **In North America children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch friends use:**
  - A. Old hats
  - B. Beer mugs
  - C. Shoes
  - D. Stockings, just like everybody else!
3. **The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in which country?**
  - A. Canada
  - B. China
  - C. Mexico
  - D. Spain.
4. **Which name does NOT belong to one of the Santa's reindeer?**
  - A. Comet
  - B. Prancer
  - C. Blitzen
  - D. Klaxon.
5. **In Syria, Christmas gifts are distributed by:**
  - A. The Three Kings
  - B. Tom O'Bedlam
  - C. One of the Wise Men's camels
  - D. Father Christmas.
6. **The real St. Nicholas lived:**
  - A. At the North Pole
  - B. On the island of Malta
  - C. In Turkey
  - D. In Holland.
7. **Which of the following was NOT one of the Three Kings?**
  - A. Caspar
  - B. Balthazar
  - C. Teleost
  - D. Melchior.
8. **The day after Christmas, December 26, is known as Boxing Day. It is also a holy day of which saint?**
  - A. St. Eustace
  - B. St. Brigit
  - C. St. Nicholas
  - D. St. Stephen.
9. **When visiting Finland, Santa leaves his sleigh behind and rides on:**
  - A. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
  - B. A giant bird
  - C. A goat named Ukko
  - D. A flying carpet.
10. **At Christmas it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?**
  - A. Oak
  - B. Rose
  - C. Holly
  - D. Mistletoe.
11. **Who was the author of 'A Christmas Carol'?**
  - A. Mark Twain
  - B. Charles Dickens
  - C. Hans Christian Andersen
  - D. Thomas M. Sawyer.
12. **The world's largest Christmas cracker was made (and pulled) in which country?**
  - A. Sweden
  - B. Australia
  - C. England
  - D. The United States.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES:**

### **Exercise 1**

1 D, 2 F, 3 E, 4 B, 5 G, 6 A, 7 C.

### **Exercise 2**

1. Christ
2. Carol
3. Reindeer
4. Tradition
5. Advent
6. Sack
7. Sleigh
8. Chain
9. Surprise
10. Present.

### Exercise 3

1. they told, 2. A new, 3. King, 4. we bring, 5. before the King, 6. we come, 7. I am, 8. boy, 9. gift, 10. give, 11. King, 12. play for you, 13. drum, 14. Mary, 15. played, 16. drum, 17. played, 18. best, 19. smiled.

### Exercise 4

1. **B.** The idea for using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E. Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.
2. **C.** Dutch children set out shoes to receive gifts any time between mid- November and December 5, St. Nicholas birthday.
3. **C.** In Mexico, the poinsettia is known as the “Flower of the Holy Night”. It was first brought to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.
4. **D.** Klaxon is actually an electric horn.
5. **C.** The gift-giving camel is said to have been the smallest one in the Wise Men’s Caravan.
6. **C.** St. Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century.
7. **C.** A teleost is actually a bony fish.
8. **D.** St. Stephen was the first Christian to be martyred for his faith.
9. **C.** Finnish folklore has it that Ukko is made of straw, but is strong enough to carry Santa Claus anyway.
10. **D.** Mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship in ancient Scandinavia, which may account for the practice of kissing beneath it.
11. **B.** After “A Christmas Carol” Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.
12. **B.** The cracker, 150 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, was made by Ray Price in Australia in 1991.

### EXTRA

#### **a. Why is Christmas sometimes spelled Xmas?**

According to the book ‘Did you ever wonder...?’ by Jeff Rovin, the word for Christ in Greek is **Xristos**. The use of the shortened for ‘Xmas’ became popular in Europe in the 1500s.

#### **b. Why do so many people, even Floridians, dream of a White Christmas?**

The song ‘White Christmas’, written by Irving Berlin for the movie ‘Holiday Inn’ (1942) and sung by Bill Crosby, is one of the best-selling songs of all time.