

Christmas is coming! by Carme Roig-Papiol

Age:	Teenagers / adults
Level:	Intermediate–Upper-intermediate
Time:	25–30 minutes
Objectives:	To improve students' fluency by speaking in small groups, to build their vocabulary of words related to Christmas
Key skills:	Speaking, vocabulary
Materials:	One copy of the board game worksheet per group of 3–4 students, counters for each student (e.g. coins or dried beans), one dice per group

Procedure

1. Students get into groups of three or four. Give each student a counter and each group a dice and copy of the board game.
2. Tell students to put their counters on the square marked START. Each student rolls the dice. The first person to roll a six starts the game.
3. The students take turns to roll the dice and move along the board according to the number they've rolled. When a student lands on a question square, they have to talk for two minutes without stopping about the question. If they land on a picture square, they have to name the picture and, if possible, give some information about it. If the student can't talk for two minutes (or hesitates too much) or can't name the picture, then they must go back three squares. When the two minutes are over, the other players in the group may join in and also comment on the question or picture.
4. The game continues until one of the players reaches the FINISH square. They are the winner.

Notes

- This game is suitable for students who celebrate Christmas.
- The teacher should try to encourage the members of each group to say something about every question and not to limit the speaking connected to each square to the person who landed there.

- When all the groups have finished, feedback as a class on the pictures, explaining any that were unknown.

Key



Star This is often placed on the top of a Christmas tree. A star is an important symbol at Christmas due to it being a key part of the story of Christ's birth; a particularly bright star was said to have led the Three Wise Men (Magi) to where the baby Jesus had been born.



Christmas card People give these cards to their friends, family and neighbours at Christmas time to wish them a happy Christmas. These cards are displayed in people's houses.



Santa Claus / Father Christmas Known as Santa Claus in the US and Father Christmas in Britain. He lives in the North Pole and delivers presents to children all over the world at Christmas. He is an old man who has a big white beard, wears red and white clothes and carries a sack full of presents. He gets into people's houses by going down their chimneys. Before Christmas, children often write him a letter, saying why they deserve a present and what present they would like. Elves (small magical creatures) help him make the presents. Santa Claus is based on the real person Saint Nicholas who was a kind man who helped people and gave children gifts. Father Christmas is based on the pre-Christian traditional figure of Old Man Winter who went to people's houses asking for food and drink.



Christmas tree At Christmas time, people often place a fir tree (real or fake) in their living rooms. This is decorated with lights and other decorations and gifts are placed underneath it. This tradition was started in Britain by Queen Victoria in the 19th century and came from Germany.

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Mistletoe The branches of this bush are often used as a Christmas decoration. It is traditional for a small bunches of mistletoe to be hung up high in people's homes. If two people stand underneath the mistletoe, it is tradition that they should kiss each other.



Wreath These are circular gatherings of flowers, fruit or other plants (such as holly) that are placed on the outside of front doors at Christmas as decoration.



Christmas stocking This is a large sock that children traditionally hang up at the end of their beds or over the fireplace on Christmas Eve (24 December). If the children have been good, Santa Claus will fill the stockings with small gifts in the night.



Presents/gifts It is traditional for friends and family members to give each other presents at Christmas. These are traditionally opened on Christmas Day in countries including the UK and the US and on Christmas Eve in countries such as Germany. In other countries like Russia, these gifts are opened on 6 January. The British royal family open their presents on Christmas Eve. This is because they originally came from Germany.



Sled/sleigh This is the vehicle Santa Claus uses to travel across the snow from his home in the North Pole. It is magical and can also fly. It is driven by his reindeer, the most important of whom is called Rudolph who has a red nose.



Christmas cracker This is a tube of coloured paper wrapped around a small present for Christmas. It makes a sudden sharp noise when two people pull it apart. These are usually placed on the Christmas table next to peoples' plates for the main Christmas meal. They are traditional in the UK but not the US.



Eggnog This is a traditional alcoholic hot drink that is drunk at Christmas time in the US. It is made from milk or cream, sugar, raw eggs, alcoholic spirits and spices.



Baubles These are round or oval shaped decorations that are hung on Christmas tree branches. They can be made of glass, metal or plastic and are often decorated and shiny.



Turkey This is the traditional main dish eaten for the main meal on Christmas Day. It is roasted and served with roast potatoes, vegetables (particularly sprouts), gravy and cranberry or bread sauce.

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<p>START</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Do you enjoy Christmas? What do you usually do for Christmas?</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Did you enjoy last Christmas? Why / why not?</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>Do you think that, in general, people spend far too much money at Christmas</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Have you ever spent Christmas in another country? If you could go anywhere for Christmas, where would you go?</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>How do you usually spend your free time during the Christmas holidays?</p>
<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Do you ever make New Year's Resolutions? Give examples.</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Does your family have any special Christmas traditions?</p>	<p>14</p> 
<p>19</p> <p>What presents are you planning to buy this year? Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Who would you like to spend Christmas Day with?</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Some people find Christmas depressing. In your opinion, why is this?</p>
<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Do you send or receive many Christmas cards?</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Do you remember the day you found out that Santa Claus wasn't real? How did you feel?</p>	<p>24</p> 
<p>FINISH</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>What do you enjoy the most about Christmas?</p>	<p>26</p> <p>What present would you like Santa to bring you for Christmas this year?</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Have you got a big family? Do you all get together on Christmas Day?</p>