

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1..... a charity | a. a tube made of card that goes 'bang' when you pull it |
| 2..... a department store | b. a bird, similar to a chicken but larger |
| 3..... a chimney | c. a type of large shop that sells many different things |
| 4..... the music charts | d. an organisation that tries to help people |
| 5..... to bet (on something) | e. having a strong, heavy or sweet flavour |
| 6..... a turkey | f. to try to win money by guessing correctly what is going to happen in the future |
| 7..... a Christmas cracker | g. a list of the best-selling songs at the moment |
| 8..... rich (flavour) | h. a part of a house above a fire that lets the smoke out |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Some modern Christmas traditions date from Roman times. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | British people send money to friends, family, colleagues, classmates and neighbours at Christmas. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Gold, frankincense and myrrh are popular Christmas presents for young people in the UK. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Santa Claus is another name for Father Christmas. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | A song by Rage Against the Machine was the best-selling song at Christmas one year. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | It doesn't always snow at Christmas in Britain. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | A Christmas cracker is a type of dessert. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Only Christians celebrate Christmas. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your grammar: multiple choice – prepositions

Circle the best preposition to complete these sentences.

1. The Romans decorated their homes with green plants **in / on / at** December.
2. In the year 440 the Christian church decided that the birth of Christ should be celebrated every year **in / on / at** 25 December.
3. **In / On / At** Christmas we cover trees with shiny balls and flashing lights.
4. **In / On / At** the night of 24 December, Father Christmas travels through the sky.
5. Groups and singers create a song that they hope will be number one **in / on / at** Christmas Day.
6. People can bet on whether it will snow or not **in / on / at** 25 December.
7. Christmas dinner is usually eaten **in / on / at** midday.
8. The shops start selling Christmas cards **in / on / at** September.

3. Check your grammar: gap fill – prepositions

Write 'in', 'on' or 'at' to complete these sentences.

1. My birthday is _____ 13 December.
2. What are you doing _____ Christmas this year?
3. Father Christmas delivers presents _____ night.
4. Some people start preparing for Christmas _____ September.
5. I open my Christmas presents first thing _____ the morning.
6. We usually have Christmas dinner _____ midday.
7. Are you having turkey _____ Christmas Day?
8. The Christmas tree is being delivered _____ Monday.

Discussion

Do you celebrate Christmas? If you do, what do you like best about it? If not, what is your favourite holiday of the year?

Do you buy presents for your friends and family?

What is the best and worst present you have received?