

CHRISTMAS IN BRITAIN

Christmas is the most popular family holiday in Britain. On **24 December** usually all preparations for Christmas are complete. Christmas greeting cards are exchanged a Christmas tree is decorated and presents are purchased. In many work places the annual parties are held and shops and banks close earlier. Late in the evening some people go to church to attend the so called "midnight mass". Children do not forget about hanging up old socks at the heads of their beds as they believe that Santa Claus who arrives in a sleigh drawn by reindeer visits each child's house and leaves wonderful presents.

Christmas Eve is followed by Christmas Day (**25 December**) which is the most important day of Christmas. Early in the morning children wake up and open their presents. At midday whole family gathers at the Christmas table. Christmas dinner traditionally consists of roast turkey, mince pies and rich Christmas pudding decorated with holly and containing delicacies, dried fruit and spices. Everyone eats one's fill and children have much fun pulling "crackers" (cardboard tubes containing small presents, printed jokes and paper hats). When two people pull a cracker, it explodes and throws out its contents. Then everyone puts on paper hat and jokes are read. On this day the Queen delivers an annual oration on television.

26 December, following Christmas Day, is called Boxing Day. It is celebrated as a bank holiday. On this day people give presents of money to paperboys or dustmen. They visit their friends or arrange parties. This is the last non-working day and the last day of the Christmas celebration. However, the Christmas season continues until the twelfth day after Christmas Day (6 January).

holiday- święto	sleigh - sanie
preparations- przygotowania	reindeer- renifer
complete- ukończone	presents- prezenty
Christmas greeting cards- świąteczne kartki z życzeniami	to arrange a party- wydawać przyjęcie
Christmas tree- choinka	to gather- gromadzić się, zbierać
at midday- w południe	to purchase- kupić
Christmas dinner- świąteczny obiad	annual parties- doroczne przyjęcia
Roast turkey- pieczeń z indyka	midnight mass- msza o północy
mince pies- okrągłe babeczki z suszonymi owocami, bakaliami itp.	celebration- świętowanie
old socks- skarpetynaprezenty	Christmas season- okres świąteczny
dustmen- śmieciarze	rich Christmas pudding- suty świąteczny pudding
Santa Claus- Święty Mikołaj	delicacies- bakalie
spices- przyprawy	holly- ostrokrzew
to eat one's fill- najeść się do syta	cardboard tubes- tekturowe tuby
crackers- walce papierowe z niespodzianką i ogniem bengalskim, które wybuchają jak dwie osoby ciągną je w przeciwne strony	
printed jokes- wydrukowane żarty	paperhats- papierowe kapelusiki
to put on- wkładać	bank holiday- oficjalne święto państwowe
to deliver an annual oration- wygłosić doroczne uroczyste przemówienie	paperboys- roznosiciele gazet

Christmas wishes:

Merry Christmas!

Best Wishes for Christmas!

I wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Seasons greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Lost of good wishes for Christmas to you!

Adapted from Małgorzata Cieślak: *Repetytorium tematyczno-leksykalne 1*. Wagros.