

Introduction

This support pack accompanies *Overcooked: Tell Me about Christmas - Part 2*

To read or listen to the article online, go to:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/overcooked/tell-me-about-christmas-part-2>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-watching vocabulary activity;
- the tape script;
- a comprehension task;

Tell Me about Christmas - Part 2

Besides Christmas trees, what other Christmas decorations do you know? Watch this video to know more about the festive decorations and items you can find in the Christmas period.



Before you watch / read

Match the words and phrases in the table to their definitions.

1. advent calendar	2. advent	3. take it in turns	4. mistletoe
5. ward off	6. Christmas cracker	7. bang	8. ripped

Definitions:

- To prevent something unpleasant from harming or coming close to you
- The period of four weeks before Christmas
- An evergreen plant with small white fruit
- Torn
- A tube of coloured paper wrapped round a small present, designed to be pulled apart by two people.
- A short loud noise
- A decorative piece of card, which has a small opening with a door for each of the days of the month before Christmas
- Do the same thing one after the other

Transcript

Advent Calendar

Hi, I'm gonna tell you about our advent calendar. This has got all the days until Christmas Day on. And what happens is today's the 14th of December, so we find the window with the 14th on. And then the lucky person whose turn it is, that's me, can open the window, and then, ready, inside, there's a picture of some kind of treat or toys. So this is a picture of a toy soldier.

And when I was a child we'd have these, and in the family, each child would take it in turns, different day, to open the window and would be very excited about it.

Mistletoe

People often put mistletoe in their homes at Christmas. The tradition is to hang it in the doorway and then kiss somebody underneath it. Nobody's really sure where it came from. Apparently, mistletoe was used a long time ago to ward off bad spirits and that's why we use it at Christmas. The proper tradition, of course, is when you kiss someone, you take the berry and you crush it. I don't know why.

Christmas Cracker

Christmas crackers are something that most people have at Christmas but I think they... It's a bit of a silly tradition really because nobody, nobody takes Christmas crackers very seriously. You usually have them maybe with your Christmas dinner, or maybe on Boxing Day, the day after Christmas. And you have them on the table, and then everybody turns to the person next to them or to somebody else at the table and you pull the cracker and it makes a big bang!

And then inside the cracker, you find usually three things I think. There's a paper hat, and a joke, and usually a small toy, or... like... could be something like a necklace as well, or small piece of stationery, that kind of thing.

But the problem with Christmas crackers is that none of those things are ever any good. So the first thing you do is you get your paper hat out, which is usually a nice bright colour and you put it on your head. And normally what happens is it doesn't actually fit on your head. So while you're putting in on your head and, it tends to break so you've got this kind of slightly broken, ripped, silly paper hat on your head. And then everybody reads out their joke. And it's always a really really bad joke. And then there of course is the toy, the little gift. And yet usually that's something that you never want, you never use, and again, it probably will break within about two days.

So I think what happens is people kind of think, "oh, we're not gonna bother having Christmas crackers because they are rubbish anyway" but then you just feel like, "oh well, but it wouldn't be Christmas without Christmas crackers". So you buy the crackers anyway and you pull them and then you complain about how bad the jokes are and the fact that the hat doesn't fit you properly. And that's what normally happens.

Comprehension Task

True or false

Read the sentences and decide if they are true or false.

1. Behind the door on an advent calendar is a toy.
2. Children think advent calendars are boring.
3. Mistletoe grows in people's homes at Christmas.
4. People kiss underneath mistletoe at Christmas.
5. Christmas crackers are a very important tradition.
6. Christmas crackers are opened by two people working together.
7. Christmas crackers have valuable presents inside.

Answers

*Before you watch: 1 - g, 2 - b, 3 - h, 4 - c, 5 - a, 6 - e, 7 - f, 8 - d
Comprehension task: 1 - false, 2 - false, 3 - false, 4 - true, 5 - false, 6 - true, 7 - false*