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CULTURE

English Matters wanders through the modern Christmas scene of Britain, looking at the new ideas and activities that the Brits consider essential during the most wonderful time of the year.

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ENGLISH MATTERS

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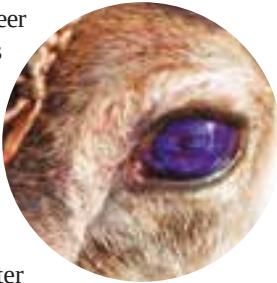


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REINDEER VISION

Have you ever wondered how reindeer can see in the dark when the areas above the Arctic Circle don't have any daylight for several weeks? To adapt to such conditions, a small part of the tissue behind the retina called the tapetum lucidum changes colour from gold in summer time to blue in the winter months. This enables a reindeer's eyes to detect ultraviolet light and see in the dark.



reindeer | renifer
 to wonder | zastanawiać się
 tissue | tu:tkanka
 retina | siatkówka
 to enable sb/sth to do sth | umożliwiać komuś/czemuś zrobienie czegoś
 to detect sth | wykrywać coś

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A non-profit organisation in the United Kingdom dealing with child poverty and neglect was awarded the title of the Largest Christmas Stocking by Guinness World Records in December 2007. It was made of over 6,000 red knitted squares and measured 32.5 meters by 15 meters. Apart from the impressive size and weight, the stocking was filled with 1,000 presents, which were given to children in the Children's Society's various projects. Also, a huge amount of over 17,000 dollars was raised to support the Children Society's programmes. In January 2011, a similar initiative was carried out by Pubblica Assistenza Carrara e Sezioni, a volunteer emergency services organisation in Carrara, Tuscany. They produced an even larger Christmas stocking, measuring 52 meters by 22 meters. The money raised was used to provide aid to the elderly.



to deal with sth | radzić sobie
 z czymś
 poverty | ubóstwo
 neglect | zaniedbanie, zaniedbywanie
 awarded | nagrodzony
 stocking | tu: skarpeta
 knitted | wyszydełkowany
 square | kwadrat
 apart from sth | oprócz czegoś
 impressive | imponujący, robiący wrażenie

weight | waga
 various | różny
 amount | ilość
 raised | zebrany
 to support sth | wesprzeć coś
 carried out | przeprowadzony
 volunteer | ochotniczy
 emergency | nagły wypadek, awaryjna sytuacja
 aid | pomoc
 the elderly | starsi ludzie

EARTH CLOSEST TO THE SUN IN WINTER

However odd it sounds, the geographical facts tell us that in the northern hemisphere the Earth is closest to the Sun during winter. Around 3 January the Earth is 3.1 million miles closer to the Sun than around 5 July when the Earth is furthest from the Sun. Earth's distance from the Sun doesn't cause the change of seasons but it influences the length of them.

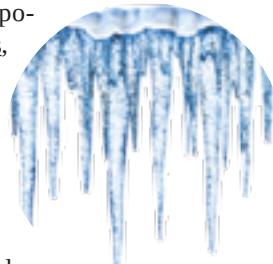


Around perihelion (the point when the Earth is closest to the Sun), our planet is moving around 1 kilometre per second faster than at aphelion (the point when the Earth is furthest from the Sun), and so winter is 5 days shorter than summer.

however odd it sounds | jakkolwiek osobliwie to brzmi
 northern | północny
 hemisphere | hemisferia(r) / hemisfir | półkula
 furthest | najdalej
 to influence sth | wpływać na coś
 length | długość
 perihelion | perihelium
 aphelion | afelium, aphelium

THE ROOTS OF THE WORD WINTER

As English is the most widely spoken Germanic language nowadays, there's no surprise that the word winter comes from the German wintar. The latter is derived from the root wed meaning 'wet' or 'water'. Thus, we can deduce that winter signified 'wet season'. Interestingly, in Anglo-Saxon cultures, years were expressed in winters, for example, a person could live 45 winters. The part of the year between May and October was simply called summer, so the year comprised of two seasons only. Autumn is a word that came into use in the 17th century to refer to the harvest season, and the word spring was coined in the 16th century to express the first season of the year.



nowadays | obecnie
 the latter | ten drugi
 to be derived from sth | pochodzić od czegoś
 meaning | znaczący, oznaczający
 wet | mokry
 to comprise of sth | składać się z czegoś
 to refer to sth | odnosić się do czegoś
 harvest season | pora plonów, okres zbiorów
 coined | ukuty

IS SNOW WHITE?

Let's first answer the question: what is snow? To put it simply, it is a bunch of individual ice crystals arranged together. Ice crystals are actually translucent. The white colour we can see in snow is the result of the process when the light being transmitted through the ice crystals doesn't travel in a straight line, but keeps changing directions as it passes through different crystals. The light that enters the snow leaves it in a totally different direction. All the wavelengths of the visible white light are transmitted and bounce back out of the snow in equal measure, making the eye perceive snow as white.



bunch of sth | pęk/garść czegoś
actually | w rzeczywistości
translucent | półprzezroczysty
to pass through sth | przechodzić przez coś
wavelength | długość fali
visible | widoczny
to bounce back out of sth | odbijać się od czegoś
in equal measure | w równej mierze, w równym stopniu
to perceive sth as sth | postrzegać coś jako coś

SANTA FOR HIRE

Although in Poland the 'Santa for hire' business is not that widespread, in the UK and the US, it brings in quite a lot of revenue for companies. Each year there are approximately 20,000 "rent-a-Santas" across the United States. They have to undergo seasonal training on how to maintain a jolly attitude and behave the way expected of Santa Claus. On the website santaforhire.com, we can rent Santa actors for shopping malls, television, corporate events, private parties, print advertisements and much, much more.



although | chociaż
widespread | szeroko rozpowszechniony
revenue | 'revənju: / 'revanu: | przychód
approximately | 'a'prəksimətl̩ / 'a'pra:ksimətl̩ | w przybliżeniu, około
to undergo sth | przejść (przez) coś
training | szkolenie
to maintain sth | utrzymać coś
jolly | wesoły
attitude | nastawienie
shopping mall | centrum handlowe
print advertisement | drukowana reklama

THE CHINESE PLUM

The Winter Plum is native to China, mainly growing in the Yangtze River delta region. The peculiar thing about this plant is that it blossoms during January and February. The plum trees can grow to 4–10 metres tall and the flowers with five petals in bright colours of red, pink and yellow, have a refreshing fragrant scent. Chinese people consider plum blossom as the national flower. It is said to be a symbol of strength, humbleness, and courage to fight against obstacles. It also brings a message of hope for a better season coming after long winter.



plum | śliwka
mainly | głównie
peculiar | osobliwy
to blossom | kwitnąć
fragrant | 'freɪgrənt | wonny, pachnący
scent | zapach
to consider sth as sth | uważać coś za coś
strength | siła
humbleness | pokora
courage | odwaga
obstacle | przeszkoda

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DELIVERING PRESENTS

According to UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), there are over 2 billion children under the age of 18 in the world. Assuming that on average there are 2.5 children per household, Santa Claus would have to travel around 350 million kilometres and make 842 million stops to deliver presents around the world on a single day. Even more incredible is another calculation, which estimates that Santa would need to travel between houses in 2/10,000 second, which means accelerating at 21 million kilometres per second on each stop. If you want your child to stop believing in Santa Claus, note this down, as the information may come in handy.



according to sth | według czegoś
on average | przeciętnie
per household | na gospodarstwo domowe
on a single day | w jeden dzień
incredible | 'ɪn'kredəbl̩ | niewiarygodny
to estimate | szacować
to accelerate | przyśpieszać
to come in handy | być użytecznym

New Year, New Year

by Owen Williams

Join *English Matters* on a discovery of how the Brits celebrate New Year – from parties in London to lucky black-haired men in Scotland!

The New Year is a time of celebration for almost all cultures, old and new, in every part of the world. From big public parties, to intimate family gatherings, we take a look at how this special date on the calendar is celebrated in Britain. Some of the activities Brits partake in on this occasion date back to the Pagans, while others are trendy new ways of seeing in the new year. For the English, New Year may not be as big a deal as Christmas, but it's a time of happiness and celebration nonetheless.

The Most Common Activities

New Year's Eve (NYE), December 31st, is not a bank holiday in Britain, so most people go to work as usual. The typical celebration (especially for young families) starts in the early evening, and takes place in the home. Most people meet with a few members of their family or friends, enjoy some snacks and drinks, and watch special NYE concerts on TV. This

is all in the build-up to midnight – as the hour approaches, people gather in one room and wait for the countdown. During the last few minutes of the year, most families will have the TV on, with the clock clearly displayed onscreen. For the last ten seconds of the year, everyone counts down (out loud) to midnight. Then there's a big cheer, perhaps party poppers, and everyone hugs and kisses. Some people

1 **family gathering** | spotkanie rodzinne
to partake in sth | uczestniczyć w czymś

Pagan 'peɪgən | paganin
nonetheless | niemniej jednak
bank holiday | święto ustawowe
to take place | odbywać się, mieć miejsce

a few | kilku, kilka, kilkoro
snack | przekąska

2 **build-up** | *tu:* przygotowania, oczekiwanie

to approach | zbliżać się

to gather | gromadzić się

countdown | odliczanie

to count down | odliczać

cheer | wiwatowanie

party popper | zabawka

wydająca dźwięk

przypominający wystrzał

to hug | ściskać się, obejmować się



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For the English, New Year may not be as big a deal as Christmas, but it's a time of happiness and celebration nonetheless.



will drink a special toast to the New Year, and almost everyone will join hands to sing Auld Lang Syne. In some places, households will then gather in the street to exchange best wishes or even dance the Conga!

Partying Out in London

Although things were considerably different recently because of the global pandemic, traditionally there was a massive public party in Trafalgar Square, central London. Thousands of revellers gathered here to celebrate together, with things becoming such a spectacle that the area used to be shown live on TV during the night. Since the early 2000s though, the authorities have discouraged people from gathering there, for fears of safety (with excessive alcohol and massive crowds sometimes leading to unrest). Since then, a spectacular fireworks display has been arranged on the South Bank in London

(a different area to Trafalgar Square) – this has managed to disperse a lot of the partying people, as there are more places to go to see the show. The fireworks and accompanying special lighting are always shown on the BBC, so those who do not want to go out can enjoy the show, too. There are, of course, countless parties throughout the city, with every club, bar and pub putting extra effort into providing a night to remember – most of these events are ticket-only, or at least pay-on-the-door. To help people travel around and get home, the London transport system is usually provided completely free for the night/morning.

Ring the Bell

Traditionally, church bells are rung to mark special events, especially jovial ones such as weddings. This is also true on NYE, with some bells sounding out at midnight to bring in the new year. Although the standard, local

3 to join hands | chwycić się za ręce

household | gospodarstwo domowe

although | chociaż

considerably | znaczająco, znacznie

reveller | imprezowicz

live lauf | na żywo

authorities | władze

to discourage sb from doing sth | zniechęcać kogoś do zrobienia

czegoś

excessive | nadmierny

crowd | tłum

to lead to sth | prowadzić do czegoś

unrest | zamieszki

fireworks display | pokaz sztucznych ogní

4 to disperse sb | rozproszyć kogoś

countless | niezählone

at least | przynajmniej

provided | dostarczony, *tu: udostępniony*

to ring the bell | brzmieć znajomo

jovial | wesoły

wedding | ślub

to sound out | pobrzmięwać

church is unlikely to ring its bells at midnight, there are some places where street parties and parades are arranged for the celebration, so church bells can be heard there. The most important and famous of all the bells in Britain however, is Big Ben (which is actually the name of the bell itself, not the clock or tower in which it is housed). The 12 chimes of Big Ben are an iconic symbol of New Year for Brits – many people gather close enough to hear the bell (and see the fireworks just down the river) while everyone else will hear them on the aforementioned TV shows.

Hogmanay

In Scotland, NYE is a bigger deal than it is in England and Wales. This is probably due to the former ban on Christmas (which lasted longer in Scotland than in England) and the closer links to the Celts. In Scotland, Hogmanay is the great (non-religious) feast of NYE. Light is very important to the celebrations of Hogmanay, as it symbolises life. Fires are lit and fireworks

are set off, with extra connotations that fire will entice the sun to come back and smoke will ward off evil spirits. Many of these traditions date back to the Pagan celebrations around this time of year, where the shortest day was observed and the lengthening of the days returned – a new spring and summer were coming, and so it was a new year. While these beliefs have become intertwined with modern practices, seeing most modern revellers enjoying a hybrid celebration, it is worth noting that in Scotland, the traditional practices are more prominent than in the rest of Britain.

Superstitions and Resolutions

Many people in Britain make New Year's Resolutions, just as people in Poland do – the practice is almost identical. A few ideal scenarios are listed, then spoken about on the evening of New Year, then followed for two weeks, then forgotten about until next year! Brits have a few superstitions about NYE – traditionally, the house should be cleaned

lengthening | wydłużanie się
intertwined with sth | *ɪntə'twaɪnd / ,ɪntər'twaɪnd wɪð 'sʌmθɪŋ* | przeplatany czymś
it is worth noting that... | warto odnotować, że...
prominent | ważny, widoczny
superstition | przesąd
resolution | postanowienie
7 ash | popiół
debt *det* | dług
8 lump of coal | grudka, bryła, kawałek węgla
dram of whisky | kieliszek whisky
warmth | ciepło
flavour | smak
good cheer | *tu:* dobry nastrój, otucha

Auld Lang Syne

The traditional song *Auld Lang Syne* comes from Scotland. It was written by the famous poet Robert Burns, and used as a folk song sung during special occasions. It is loved as the NYE song of choice for Brits, with most people actually enjoying the fact that hardly anyone knows the words except the chorus!



except sth | z wyjątkiem czegoś
chorus | refren

before the new year, any ash from the fireplace should be emptied, and any debt should be cleared. Essentially, everything should be prepared in the state that you'd like it to be in for the rest of the year. In Scotland, there are many more superstitions, the most important of which, states that the first person who enters a house after NYE should be a man

with black hair. He should bring with him a lump of coal, some bread, salt and a dram of whisky! These symbolic gifts provide the receiving house with warmth, food, flavour and good cheer for the year. Whoever comes first to your house after NYE, and whatever they bring with them, we hope you have the same good fortune for the year ahead. ■

Buzzword – Hybrid

The word 'hybrid', meaning a something made of two different elements, is not new to the English lexicon. However, following the near-worldwide lockdown and the situation of people working from home, then gradually returning to the office, the word 'hybrid' has been used to describe a situation where someone mixes home office and working-on-site. Since then, the word has drastically increased in use, with people choosing to use it whenever they describe a situation which involves two elements.

however | jednak/że
gradually | stopniowo
increased | zwiększyły
to involve sth | włączać, obejmować coś

Thanksgiving Dinner

by Jonathan Sidor

You may know a thing or two about Thanksgiving Day in the United States. But wouldn't it be great to get some info straight from the horse's mouth? Get more info on Thanksgiving from *English Matters'* interview with Noah C. from Florida.

Thanksgiving | Święto Dziękczynienia
straight from the horse's mouth
| z pierwszej ręki





Noah

EM: Why do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?

NC: It's all in the name, isn't it? It's a day for us to take a break from our normal lives and appreciate all of the great things that we have in our lives. Family, good health, things like that. Everyone can interpret it in their own way.

EM: Do you know the history of the holiday?

- 1 **to appreciate sth** | być wdzięcznym za coś, doceniać coś
- health **helθ** | zdrowie
- 2 **to harvest sth** | zbierać coś (plony)
- crops | plony
- to break bread** | łamać się chlebem
- feast | uczta
- actual | prawdziwy
- at least | przynajmniej
- to pass sth down to sb** | przekazywać coś komuś
- gratitude | wdzięczność
- to invite sb** | zapraszać, zaprosić kogoś
- each fall | każdej jesieni
- origins | pochodzenie, początki

NC: Sure. They teach it to us as little kids in school. When the first Pilgrims came to the New World from England, they had a difficult time harvesting all kinds of crops. Local Native Americans helped them out, and the Pilgrims and Native Americans broke bread with a huge feast. This happened in present-day Massachusetts, I want to say. I can't remember the exact year. I'm sure the actual event was a little more complicated than that, but this is at least the story we pass down to children.

And that's where the whole idea of giving thanks came from. The Pilgrims showed the Native Americans gratitude by inviting them to their feast. Later, farmers would give thanks for their good harvests at the end of each summer. I think that's why it's celebrated each fall. Anyway, today people are free to celebrate however they want, but those are the origins of Thanksgiving.

EM: What do Americans do each year for Thanksgiving?

NC: So, food is definitely the focal point. You sit down with your family or friends and have this gigantic home-cooked meal. Some families actually go around from person to person and speak about what they're thankful for in that particular year.

EM: What are the most common foods that are eaten?

NC: The main dish is a turkey. I think most families try to find the biggest one they can get their hands on. The turkey has to have stuffing. You know, pieces of bread, vegetables, a mix of herbs. Aside from the turkey, you're going to see all kinds of different

side dishes. Gosh, I don't want to forget any. Let's see, we have mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, green beans, and cranberry sauce.

...The list goes on and on... I guess I love having some warm cornbread on my plate, or a warm buttery biscuit. And macaroni and cheese, or some kind of casserole, maybe? All of the foods kind of have an "autumn vibe." I don't know, it's hard to explain. And I guess Thanksgiving dinner would be incomplete without pumpkin pie for dessert.

EM: Are there any foods that are a little strange to you?

NC: Not strange, but perhaps...eccentric? Since every family can basically do whatever they want, you're bound to find some variety. Who says you can't have pizza, or barbecue, or sushi for Thanksgiving? I've seen it. It might not be the most popular, but whatever floats your boat, right?

But I guess foreigners would probably be interested in something like Turducken. You can take a whole chicken and put it inside a duck, and then take the duck and put it inside a turkey. You roast all of that together, and ta-da – turducken. I know deep frying turkey is becoming more popular now. Instead of just roasting it in the oven, you deep fry it whole. I've only seen people doing this outside, and I have heard of people getting hurt doing this.

Also, this isn't exclusively tied to Thanksgiving, but fall in the United States is basically "pumpkin spice" season. Coffee, sweets, snacks...even alcoholic drinks. You name it. Anywhere you go, you'll see people eating and drinking

- definitely** | zdecydowanie
- focal point** | punkt centralny
- gigantic** **dʒɑ:rgæntɪk** | olbrzymi
- actually** | w rzeczywistości
- to go around** | *tu:* przechodzić
- thankful for sth** | wdzięczny za coś
- turkey** **ˈtɜ:ki / ˈtɜ:rkɪ** | indyk
- stuffing** | nadzienie
- herb** **hɜ:b / ɜ:rb** | ziele, zioło
- aside from sth** | oprócz czegoś
- 3 **mashed potatoes** | purée ziemniaczane
- gravy** | sos pieczeniowy
- cranberry sauce** | sos żurawinowy
- cornbread** | chleb kukurydziany
- buttery biscuit** | bułeczka maślana

- casserole** | potrawa duszona, danie jednogarnkowe
- autumn** **ˈɔ:təm** | jesień
- vibe** | atmosfera
- pumpkin pie** | ciasto dyniowe
- to be bound to do sth** | musieć coś zrobić
- variety** | różnorodność
- whatever floats your boat** | co kto lubi
- foreigner** | obcokrajowiec
- deep frying** | smażony na głębokim oleju
- instead of sth** | zamiast czegoś
- to roast sth** | piec coś
- oven** | piekarnik
- tied to sth** | związanego z czymś
- you name it** | do wyboru do koloru

some “fall-themed” items. And a lot of them will definitely make their way onto the Thanksgiving dinner table.

EM: How long does it take to prepare all of these dishes?

NC: Oh, it definitely takes more than a couple of hours. My family always gets started a couple of days before Thanksgiving, just so we’re not in such a rush. A lot of restaurants that offer catered Thanksgiving meals will start taking orders weeks in advance, and supermarkets can sell out of turkeys days before Thanksgiving. So, you definitely don’t want to wait too long. On Thanksgiving Day, the turkey itself takes the most time. I think that’s always taken us at least four hours.

EM: Other than the food, what else is important to Americans on Thanksgiving?

NC: Oh, there’s so much that’s going on. On a cultural level, it’s practically as big as Christmas. For many, it’s probably more important since it’s not restricted to one specific religion. It’s not even one of those more patriotic holidays, so anyone can really get in the spirit of things.

So what do we actually do? Thanksgiving always falls on a Thursday.

4 fall-themed | powiązany tematycznie

z jesienią

definitely | zdecydowanie

rush | pośpiech

catered | przygotowywany

na zamówienie

to take orders | przyjmować

zamówienia

in advance | z wyprzedzeniem

to sell out of sth | wyprzeć coś

restricted to sth | ograniczony

do czegoś

5 highway | AmE autostrada

R and R = rest and relaxation/rest and recuperation | przerwa na odpoczynek

though | jednak

other than that | poza tym

draw | tu: atrakcja

to pardon sb/sth | ułaskawić kogoś/coś

dumb dʌm | głupi

publicity stunt | chwyt reklamowy

at the crack of dawn | o świcie

to take advantage of sth | s/korzystać

z czegoś

insane | szalony

bargain 'ba:gən / 'ba:rgən | okazja

6 crowd | tłum

Thursday is a national holiday, and most people get Friday off too, so almost the whole country has a four-day weekend. This means it’s easier to travel to see family during Thanksgiving than it is during Christmas, so a lot of Americans travel. Highways are filled with traffic, airports are busy. But once you get home, it’s about getting some R and R.

Lots of cities organize some kind of Thanksgiving parade. Instead of going out, though, I think most people watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV. This takes place in New York City, and I think it’s actually the world’s largest parade. Other than that, there are always American football games on TV, too. There might be some other sports events over the weekend, too, but football is definitely the biggest draw. Oh yeah, and the president pardons a turkey on TV, but I think that’s just some dumb publicity stunt.

Ah, and I guess we have to talk about Black Friday. Everyone rests on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, but lots of people get up at the crack of dawn on Friday to take advantage of all of those insane bargains in stores. I’ve never gone myself, but you

not sb’s cup of tea | nie czynią bajka

hands down | tu: bez dwóch zdań

to chow down on sth | wcinać coś

to spill the beans | wygadać się

to include sth | obejmować coś

gift exchange | wymianianie się prezentami, wymiana prezentów

always hear stories in the news of crowds and long lines. It’s not my cup of tea, but I know you can get some pretty good deals that day.

EM: What’s your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?

NC: The food. Hands down. If you don’t have a chance to do anything else during Thanksgiving in the USA, make sure you chow down on a nice home-cooked meal.

Spilling the Beans

And there you have it – everything you need to know about Thanksgiving Day directly from an American. Thanksgiving may not receive as much press as Halloween or Christmas, but it’s definitely on top of every American’s mind when November comes around. Thanksgiving doesn’t include a gift exchange, or raucous parties like some other holidays, but it’s still seared onto the American psyche. Even if the original meaning may be lost on some, Thanksgiving is one of the most celebrated days on the American calendar. ■

raucous 'rɔ:kəs | hałaśliwy

seared onto sth | wryty, wbity w coś (np.

w podświadomość)

meaning | znaczenie

Fact File

So what did the original Thanksgiving really look like? In November 1621, the Pilgrims had such a successful corn harvest that they invited neighbouring Native American tribes to their celebratory feast. The festivities lasted for three days. Other dishes included swan, seal, venison and lobster. There is no evidence that turkey was eaten at all.

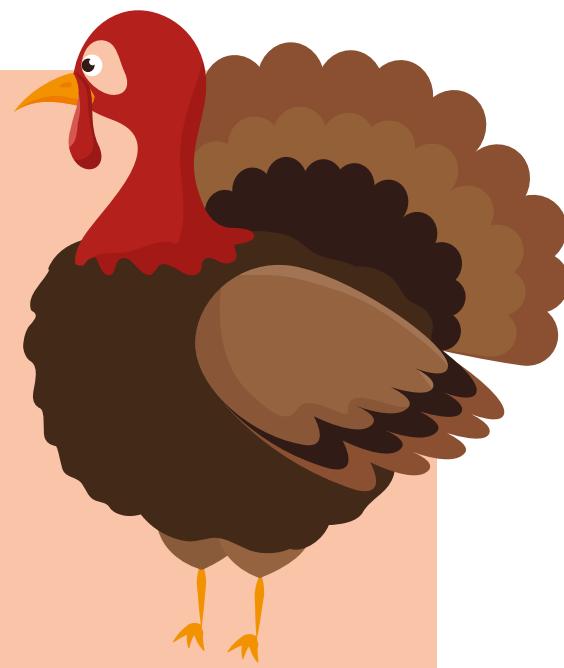
neighbouring | sąsiadujący

to include sth | obejmować coś

venison | dzicyzna

lobster | homar

at all | w ogóle



Christmas – the British Way

by Owen Williams

English Matters wanders through the modern Christmas scene of Britain, looking at the new ideas and activities that the Brits consider essential during the most wonderful time of the year.

Contemporary Christmas in Great Britain is not exactly the same as the traditional Dickensian scene we may picture it to be. There's a new host of customs and celebrations decorating the yearly traditions, with outdated activities falling out of favour and technology-enabled modern ideas taking precedence. From the globalisation-born adoption of overseas traditions, to enjoyment of gimmicks and adverts from giant corporations, we look at all those things that the modern Brit likes partaking in at Christmas.



POBIERZ CZYTNIK KODÓW:
PODOLFMEDIA.PL/CHYTNIK

to wander through sth | przechadzać się po czymś
scene s̬in | sceneria
contemporary | współczesny
to picture sth | tu: wyobrazić sobie coś
custom | zwyczaj, obyczaj
outdated | przestarzały
to fall out of favour | wypadać z łask

enabled | aktywowany, umożliwiony, możliwy
to take precedence over sth | być ważniejszym od czegoś, mieć pierwszeństwo przed czymś
gimmick | sztuczka, chwyt reklamowy
advert | reklama
to partake in sth | brać w czymś udział

German-Austrian-British Christmas Markets



A decade ago, the only time Brits got to go to a traditional Christmas market was when they went on holiday in December and visited a market in a European city. Although the option was there for many, few Brits could boast experiencing an authentic Christmas market, like those in Germany and Austria. A few decades before that, before the age of low-cost flights, very few Brits indeed had been to a Christmas market – most knowledge of them was taken from books or TV. Now, though, these festive pop-up markets appear in many cities (and even towns) up and down the land of Great Britain. They include the usual kitsch goods, but also some hand crafted gems, plus (the most popular product for many market-goers) mulled wine. Sipping the hot drinks and sampling some market food, often leaves Brits feeling nostalgic and festive – with each sip washing away any sceptical thoughts of the commercialised reasoning behind the market's presence.

although | chociaż

to boast sth | szczerzyć się czymś, pochwalić się czymś

a few | kilka

few | niewielu

indeed | w rzeczy samej

though | jednak

festive | świąteczny

pop-up | pojawiający się i znikający, tymczasowy, otwierający się na krótki okres

to appear | pojawiać się

to include sth | obejmować coś

kitsch | kiczowy

hand crafted | ręcznie robiony

gem | skarb

mulled wine | grzaniec

to sip sth | sączyć coś, popijać małymi łykami

to sample sth | próbować czegoś

sip | łyk

to wash away sth | wymazywać coś

The Icing on the Cake



While the iced, traditional Christmas cake remains a constant, a different kind of icing has become a staple part of the British Christmas scene: external, seasonal ice rinks are another recent import that have become very popular. These frozen dreams tap into the romanticised view of Christmas as Brits have seen in Hollywood films. On frosty, dark, December evenings, a contemporary British Christmas is lit up by the fairy lights surrounding ice rinks, and the idea of spending time together in a new and exciting way.

the icing on the cake | wisienka na torcie

staple | podstawowy, zasadniczy

external | zewnętrzny

ice rink | lodowisko

lit up | oświetlony, rozświetlony

Add TV to Christmas

Christmas films are nothing new.

And neither is the tradition of watching the same film on Christmas day with your family (*Home Alone* anyone?!). For many members of the British public, there's another important tradition that's televised – the Queen's speech. This is not exactly new either, though, unlike the modern tradition of waiting for a certain company's Christmas advert to be broadcast. The *John Lewis* Christmas advert has become something of a spectacle at Christmas – many Brits wait to see it, then all the media discusses it! The *Coca-Cola* Christmas advert is also a favourite, with some Brits going so far as to say it signals the beginning of Christmas!



neither | również nie

unlike sth | w przeciwnieństwie do czegoś

A Gift-Wrapped Christmas



Present giving always has and always will be an important part of Christmas in Britain. Many consumers are becoming increasingly aware of – and resistant to – the commercialisation of Christmas, claiming consumerism has a detrimental effect on the traditional message and authentic feeling of the special time – this has led to an increase in handmade gifts and thoughtful, unusual gifts (like donating to a charity in a person's name). Like it or not, though, buying the usual gifts is a massive part of Christmas still. Recent changes to this tradition include the ordering of gifts online, and the increased use of gift-wrapping services.

gift-wrapped | ładnie zapakowany/opakowany
increasingly | rosnąco
aware of sth | świadomy czegoś
resistant to sth | odporny na coś
to claim sth | twierdzić coś

consumerism kən'sju:mərɪzəm / kən'su:mərɪzəm | konsumpcjonizm
detrimental | szkodliwy
to lead to sth | prowadzić do czegoś
thoughtful | tu: przemyślany
still | nadal

Number One Importance



Christmas just wouldn't be the same without the accompanying pop music. You'll know it's nearly Christmas time in Britain when *Last Christmas* starts being played on the radio – while this observation is not very new, and it's definitely not different to Poland, there is a musical tradition in the modern British Christmas – the fight for the UK number one. Despite the fact that music consumption has dramatically shifted in recent years, there is still a chart of the most popular singles (per week). Of those charts, the most important edition is the one closest to (but before) Christmas Day – whoever is listed in the top spot on that chart, gets the honourable title of 'Christmas Number One.' Taking an interest in who gets this prestige is a relatively modern British Christmas tradition.

without sth | bez czegoś
nearly | prawie
definitely | zdecydowanie
despite sth | po/mimo czegoś

chart | lista przebojów
honourable 'ɒnərəbl / 'a:nərəbl | honorowy
prestige pre'stɪ:ʒ | prestiż

Coca-Cola Santa

The most popular image of Santa Claus that the modern British reveller recognises – with red suit and hat, and a fluffy white beard, comes from Coca-Cola! The company popularised the vision of a man in a red suit with white trim (to match the red and white brand colours of the company). Before that, the figure of Father Christmas was often depicted in green, purple, blue or even brown.

reveller | imprezowicz, biesiadnik
to recognise sth | tu: uznawać coś
fluffy | puszysty
trim | wykończenie, obrzeże (np. materiału)
depicted | odmawiany, przedstawiony

Weird Christmas Traditions

These traditions are not new to Britain, but they are unusual:

- Putting a silver coin in the Christmas pudding
- Pulling Christmas Crackers and wearing paper crowns during dinner
- Eating mince pies (a sweet treat made with dried fruit called 'mincemeat')
- Watching a pantomime (a show in the theatre which is usually a funny, informal performance based on a fairy tale).

mince pie | babeczka z kruchego ciasta z nadzieniem z bakalii
treat | smakołyk
dried | suszony
fairy tale | bajka

A Traditional Transition

We know Christmas in Britain is a mix of traditions old and new, with some even predating the birth of Christ (the Christmas tree was adopted from the Pagan tradition of decorating living spaces with evergreen trees). The newest traditions range from differences in the words Brits say ("Happy Holidays" is not a phrase you'd have heard in Britain a few decades ago) and how they communicate them (sending a Christmas text to everyone in your phonebook was not an option until recently), to new options for buying, wrapping and sending presents. Knowing which of these traditions will stand the test of time and be the ones that are considered old in the future, however, is something that we cannot be sure of in the present. ■

to predate sth | poprzedzać coś

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE – CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS

GRAMMAR FOCUS – PASSIVE

The article uses the passive voice a number of times: “A *contemporary British Christmas is lit up by the fairy lights*” and “*whoever is listed in the top spot on that chart*.” We form passive sentences when the most important thing to us is the object of the sentence (sometimes the subject is not known, or not important). The verb ‘to be’ is used and can take any tense (relevant to what is being said) while the main verb is always put in past participle. If you’d like to mention who performed the action (the subject), then you can use ‘by’.

Examples – Active vs Passive

Active: *We/Someone adopted the Christmas tree from Pagan tradition.*

Passive: *The Christmas tree was adopted from Pagan tradition.*

Active: *The company popularised the vision of a man in a red suit.*

Passive: *The vision of a man in a red suit was popularised by the company.*

Active: *We/Someone often depicted the figure of Father Christmas in green.*

Passive: *The figure of Father Christmas was often depicted in green.*

contemporary | współczesny

passive | strona bierna

to mention sth | wspomnieć coś

Pagan | pogański

to depict sth | przedstawiać coś, odmawiać coś

VOCABULARY SPOTLIGHT

Television – there are many ways the Brits refer to their beloved gogglebox. It’s quite rare that they would say ‘television,’ instead they’d say ‘TV,’ ‘tele,’ or ‘the box.’ These phrases are so popular that there’s even a show on TV called *Gogglebox*, there’s a website listing what’s onscreen every day called ‘what’s on the box’ and of course *Teletubbies* were made for the tele.

Frosty – this refers to the cold (when there is a frost). It’s not as cold as freezing or frozen, but it’s colder than simply ‘cold.’ The word is also used to describe someone’s behaviour or reaction to something, as in, “His performance got a frosty reception.” ‘Frosty’ is also the name of a snowman in a Christmas carol (alluding to his temperature, not how he behaves). The song starts, “Frosty the snowman, was alive or so they say...”

Festive – this adjective means either, ‘relating to a festival,’ or ‘cheerful and celebratory.’ It’s most frequently used to talk about Christmas time, as Christmas is a festival that is cheerful! To Brits, ‘festive time’ means ‘Christmas time.’

Wander – to have a stroll or light walk (often without a definite target destination). The word is very similar to ‘wonder’ meaning ‘to think about something’ or ‘something amazing.’ The difference in pronunciation (although it changes with accent of course) is: wonder /'wʌndə/ and wander /'wɒndə/. The famous Christmas song is *Winter Wonderland* refers to an amazing, winter place.

spotlight | centrum uwagi

beloved | ukochany

gogglebox | pot. telewizor

instead | w zamian

frost | mróz

behaviour | zachowanie

performance | występ

Christmas carol | świąteczna kolęda

alluding to sth | nawiązujący do czegoś

either... or... | albo... albo...

cheerful | radosny

to have a stroll | spacerować, przechadzać się

definite | określony

target destination | punkt docelowy, cel

The American Christmas

by Jonathan Sidor

Christmas is celebrated all over the world, but each country has its own spin on the holiday. What does Christmas look like in the United States? Travel across the pond with *English Matters* to find out.

We've all seen glimpses of how Americans celebrate Christmas in popular films and TV shows, but how is the holiday really celebrated in the USA? The number of Christmas traditions that are unique to the United States may surprise you.

Basic Traditions

There are many Christmas traditions from the United States that are almost universally observed. Weeks before the holiday, Americans start to focus on purchasing gifts. Black Friday, which falls at the end of November, marks the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season. Americans flock to shopping malls and department stores, and online shopping sees a sharp upturn as well.

The other thing that's noticeable well before Christmas Day is all of the decorations. Americans love decorating the interiors and exteriors of their homes with all sorts of lights, signs, and festive figures. Some residential streets are so ornately decorated that it isn't uncommon for Americans to visit them by car or on foot just to catch a glimpse. Indoor decorations may vary, but a Christmas tree is a must-have. Apart from conventional ornaments, some American households will also adorn their trees with strings of popcorn. Americans even want to display the Christmas spirit with their clothes. Holiday-themed sweaters, jewellery, and other articles become more and more popular as Christmas approaches.

When Christmas Day actually arrives, gifts are typically the first priority in the morning. Families can enjoy a casual breakfast, but the Christmas dinner tends to dominate the day's schedule. This meal is the biggest and usually the most formal of the day. A number of other activities can be enjoyed, but family remains central throughout the day. Those who choose to stay in can play board or party games. Often, major sporting events are televised as well. If weather permits, many Americans choose to spend Christmas outdoors. In colder climates, activities like sledding or ice skating are popular.

0 spin on sth | *tu: pot.* interpretacja, ujęcie czegoś
across the pond | *tu: pot.* za oceanem, w Stanach Zjednoczonych
1 glimpse | mignięcie, szybki wgląd (w coś)
unique | jedyny w swoim rodzaju
to focus on sth | skupiać się/koncentrować się na czymś
purchasing 'pɜ:tʃəsɪŋ / 'pɜ:rtʃəsɪŋ | nabycie, kupowanie
to fall | *tu:* przypadać
to flock to sth | udawać się gdzieś tłumnie
shopping mall | centrum handlowe
department store | dom towarowy/handlowy
upturn | niewielki wzrost
noticeable 'nəʊtɪsəbl | odnotowywalny, zauważalny
interior | wewnętrze
exterior | zewnętrzna część (np. domu)
festive | świąteczny
ornately | bogato
uncommon | niespotykany, rzadki
indoor | wewnętrzny, we wnętrzu
to vary | różnić się

Elsewhere, a visit to a local park or other public space could be in order. Most businesses close for Christmas, but a number of cafes or shops may remain open in certain communities to capitalise on any visitors who may stumble by.

Festive Foods

You can tell a lot about a culture by examining its food. A look at American Christmastime dishes confirms this statement 100 percent. Again, much of America's iconic Christmas fare starts to

must-have | konieczność, rzecz niezbędna
apart from sth | oprócz czegoś
household | gospodarstwo domowe
to display sth | pokażć coś
holiday-themed | nawiązujący tematycznie do świąt
jewellery 'dʒu:əlri | biżuteria
to approach | zbliżać się
2 actually | naprawdę, rzeczywiście
casual | zwyczajowy, codzienny
schedule 'ʃedju:l / 'skedʒu:l | rozkład, grafik (np. dnia)
board game | gra planszowa
to permit | pozwalać
outdoors | na zewnątrz, na dworze
sledding 'sledʒɪŋ | jazda na sankach
3 to be in order | być odpowiednim
community | społeczność
to capitalise on sb | skorzystać na czymś, zarobić
to stumble by | wpaść, wpadać
to examine sth | *tu:* przyjrzeć się czemuś dobrze, zbadać coś dokładnie
to confirm sth | potwierdzać coś
fare | potrawa, pożywienie



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Culture

Americans love decorating the interiors and exteriors of their homes with all sorts of lights, signs, and festive figures.

pop up weeks before the actual holiday. If you attend any sort of Christmas party, expect to find all kinds of snacks that are coloured green and red, or Christmas-themed in some way. When it comes to snacks, sweets tend to dominate most kitchens. Popular baked goods include gingerbread men, gingerbread houses, and cupcakes. All kinds of chocolate arrangements are put together and consumed. So are peppermint candy canes. Common

additions to most of these treats include nuts and seasonal fruits, like cranberries. More traditional households in the USA may bake a fruitcake, but these have generally gone out of favour and are often greeted with derision.

Americans have just as many Christmas beverages as they do eats. The most recognisable one might be eggnog. This is a drink in which beaten eggs, milk, sugar and some spices are mixed together.

4 **to pop up** | pojawiać się

actual | prawdziwy, faktyczny

to attend sth | uczęszczać na coś/
gdzieś

when it comes to... | jeśli chodzi o...

to include sth | obejmować coś

gingerbread man | piernikowy ludzik

cupcake | babeczka

arrangement | *tu: zestaw, zestawienie*

peppermint candy cane | miętowa laska
cukrowa

5 **treat** | smakołyk

nut | orzech

seasonal | sezonowy

cranberry | żurawina

to go out of favour | wypadać, wypaść z łask

to be greeted with derision | być witanyem

z kpiną/drwiną

beverage | napój

recognisable | *rekognajzəbl/ ,rekag'najzəbl*

| rozpoznawalny

eggnog | ajerkoniak

Some kind of alcohol, like rum or brandy, is usually thrown in, too. If that sounds too bizarre, then a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows might be exactly what you need on a cold winter's night. Besides this, Americans enjoy several varieties of spiced teas and coffees. Wher-
ever you go, it'll be easy to spot a few people with a Starbucks cup in their hand holding some tantalising blend of winter flavours.

beaten | ubity

spices | przyprawy

6 **thrown in** | dorzucony, wrzucony

bizarre | dziwny, dziwaczny, osobiлиwy

marshmallow | pianka

besides this | oprócz tego

variety | odmiana

spiced | z przyprawami

to spot sb | dostrzec, dostrzegać kogoś

a few | wiele, wielu

tantalising | nęiący, kuszący

On Christmas Day, traditional dinners can still differ significantly from household to household. Most families will hold on to the traditions of their ancestors who immigrated to the USA. That being said, many homes will follow simple British traditions. These include dining on some kind of stuffed fowl like turkey or chicken, or a sizeable Christmas ham. Typical side dishes include mashed potatoes and gravy along with roasted root vegetables like carrots, potatoes, yams and onions. Spanish-speaking families frequently add pork and corn to their dinners. Regional additions include local seafood and rice, while many non-Christian families dine out in Chinese restaurants. The most visible desserts are pumpkin or pecan pie.

Quirky Customs

Apart from the most obvious cultural traditions, Americans partake in a number of other festivities that may receive less fanfare. For example, carolling remains a Christmas staple in a number of communities. Singers gather in small groups

7 to differ from household to household

| różnić się od domu do domu, różnie wyglądać w poszczególnych gospodarstwach domowych

significantly | znacząco, znacznie

to hold on to sth | trzymać się czegoś
ancestor | przodek

to follow sth | podążać za czymś, wzorować się na czymś

stuffed | nadziewany

fowl | drób

turkey | indyk

sizeable | sporych rozmiarów, spory

mashed potatoes | purée ziemniaczane

gravy | sos pieczeniowy

roasted | pieczone

root vegetable | warzywo korzeniowe

yam | pochrzyn chiński, rodzaj ziemniaka

onion | ʌnʃən | cebula

pork | wieprzowina

seafood | owoce morza

to dine out | jeść na mieście

pumpkin pie | ciasto dyniowe

pecan pie | ciasto z orzechami pekan

quirky | osobliwy

obvious | ə'bviəs / 'a:bviəs | oczywisty

to partake in sth | brać w czymś udział

carolling | kolędowanie

and walk from house to house singing all kinds of songs about Christmas or winter. Many times, the carollers will sing without notifying the homeowners or asking for permission.

It may seem a tad stereotypical, but Americans have an odd affinity for Christmas movies and TV shows during the winter season. Television viewers are bombarded with all kinds of Christmas flicks on multiple channels. The list is infinite, but mainstays include *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. Even cinemagoers are kept happy. A handful of Christmas-themed movies make it to cinemas each December, and one or two blockbusters even premiere on Christmas Day. That's right – cinemas are open on 25 December, and many Americans head out to catch a film on the holiday.

A final, strange pastime? Americans like to play a game of sorts called Secret Santa with their friends, family members, or work colleagues. How does it work? Everyone who participates randomly draws the name of another person in secret. Then, they are supposed to purchase a gift for this person. At a Christmas party or on

staple | podstawa

to gather | gromadzić się

a caroller | kolędnik

without sth | bez czegoś

to notify sb | zawiadomić kogoś

to ask for permission | prosić o zezwolenie

to seem | wydawać się

a tad | trochę

odd | osobliwy

affinity for sth | tu: przywiązanie do czegoś

flick | pot. AmE film

infinite | nieskończony

mainstay | podstawa

handful of sth | garstka czegoś

blockbuster | hit

to head out | wyruszać

pastime | rozrywka

to participate in sth | uczestniczyć w czymś

randomly | losowo

to draw sth | tu: wyciągać coś, wy/losować coś

9 to reveal sth | ujawniać coś

identity | tożsamość

arrangement | ustalenie

in a nutshell | w skrócie

concise | zwięzły, krótki

immense | rozległy

familiar with sth | zaznajomiony z czymś

dozens | dziesiątki

Christmas day, all the participants gather to exchange gifts and reveal their identities. This arrangement is great for larger groups when buying a present for every single person would be difficult.

Noel in a Nutshell

And there you have it – our concise guide on how Americans celebrate Christmas. Remember, the United States is an immense country whose citizens are familiar with dozens of other national cultures. This means no two American homes will experience Christmas the same way. Sure, there are some national customs that will be easy to spot all over the USA, but the uniqueness of each family's Christmas celebrations is what truly makes them so special. ■

On the Screen

Here are the most recent Christmas pictures to hit American cinemas:

- *The Night Before* (2015) – a raunchy comedy that is just for grownups



- *The Man Who Invented Christmas* (2017) – a creative take on how Charles Dickens came up with "A Christmas Carol"



- *The Grinch* (2018) – a retelling of the classic book by Dr. Seuss



- *Klaus* (2019) – an animated tale that reinvents the story of Santa Claus



raunchy | ʳɔ:ntʃi | sprośny
grownup | dorosły
take | tu: przedstawienie, ujęcie (czegoś)
to come up with sth | wymyślić coś
to reinvent sth | wynaleźć coś na nowo

Panto

by Jonathan Moore

One popular Christmas tradition in Britain and Ireland is the pantomime, a funny play with a hero, villain and lots of audience participation.

Although pantomime has become a British or Irish cultural institution, its roots can be found in sunnier climes. It is based on the Italian street theatre known as *Commedia Dell'Arte*. Acting companies used to tour Italy and France to tell people the story of the old man Pantalone, the clown Pierrot, as well as a girl called Columbine, who was in love with the mischievous servant Arlecchino.

A Rich History

The first pantomime on the British stage appeared in the late sixteenth century, introduced by a man called John Rich, an English theatre impresario. The storylines featured lovers, magic, chases and acrobatics. The Harlequin (the English form of Arlecchino) a comedy character with a shaved head, masked face, variegated tights, and wooden sword, would instigate set changes by hitting scenery with his 'slapstick'. This was why such plays were known as Harlequinades. By the dawning of the Victorian era, pantomimes had evolved into an essential element of the British Christmas scene.

Oh No It Isn't

One typical feature of a pantomime is for one of the characters to negate a previous statement, such as "It's a nice day



today", with the catchphrase "Oh no it isn't". In response to this, the audience shout in unison "Oh yes it is". This is repeated several times until the statement is either proved or disproved. Of course, children find such banter particularly amusing. Indeed, in many cases, pantomime is children's first taste of live theatre.

Examples of Pantomime

Typically, well known tales are adapted to the panto format. Often, a man plays the role of the *Pantomime Dame*, an elderly lady who introduces the scenes of the pantomime. One particularly common example is a pantomime based on *Cinderella*, with Prince Charming, the two ugly sisters and the *fairy godmother*, whose roles are frequently played by male actors. *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in which a little boy called Jack sells his mother's cow for some magic beans, is another tale commonly transformed into panto form. Other pantomimes are based on the movies of world-famous actors such as Rowan Atkinson (as Mr. Bean), Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harpo Marx and Marcel Marceau.

Still Alive

Even though it dates back so far, pantomime still remains very much alive in Britain and Ireland, and it is likely to do so for a long time to come. ■

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Culture

POBIERZ CZYTNIK KODOW: COLOFULMEDIA.PL/ CZYTNIK

0 **villain** 'vɪlən | łotr, łajdak

1 **although** | chociaż

to be in love with sb | kochać kogoś

mischievous 'mɪstʃɪvəs | psotny, sowizdrzański

to appear | pojawiać się

to feature sb/sth | obejmować kogoś/coś

chase tʃeɪs | pościg

shaved | ogolony

variegated 'vɛərɪeɪgətɪd / 'vɛərɪgeɪtɪd | barwny

tights tæts | rajstopy

wooden | drewniany

sword | miecz

to **instigate** sth | zapoczątkować coś

to **hit** sth | uderzać coś

scenery 'sɪ:nəri | tu: dekoracje

slapstick | błazenada

by the **dawning** of sth | przed zaraniem

czegoś

to **evolve** into sth | ewoluować, przekształcić się w coś

previous | uprzedni

2 **catchphrase** | powiedzonko

in unison | jednym głosem

either...or... | albo...albo...

proved | zaaprobowany

banter | droczenie się, przekomarzanie się

amusing | zabawny

indeed | w rzeczy samej

elderly | starszy

common | powszechny, tu: popularny

ugly | brzydkie

fairy godmother | dobra wróżka

male | mężczyzna, męski

bean | fasola

commonly | powszechnie

even though | nawet jeśli

Treats, Dishes and Goodies

by Kamil Drożdżyk

British cuisine, thanks to the Isles' rich colonial history, comes in all shapes and sizes. It goes from the ever so popular fish and chips, through the stereotypical tea at five o'clock, to some more exotic dishes, such as cockles. When Christmas comes, however, British cuisine gains a whole new flavour.



treat | poczęstunek; smakołyk
goodie | smakołyk, łakość, słodycz
cuisine *kwi'zi:n* | kuchnia
to come in | występować
fish and chips | ryba z frytkami
cockle | serówka jadalna
flavour *'fleɪvə(r)* | smak



The traditional British Christmas dinner is eaten on December 25th, between 1pm and 4pm. If you ever get invited to a Christmas feast in the UK, it's worth remembering that unlike many other European countries, the Brits eat their dinner a day late – actually on Christmas Day, not on Christmas Eve. If you arrive on time – you're in for a treat.

The Entrées

Before the main course is served, the guests can choose from a variety of tasty appetizers. In anticipation of the turkey, you can, for example, try the traditional Christmas soup. The name itself doesn't

- 1 **worth doing sth** | wart/y zrobienia czegoś
unlike | inaczej niż
actually | rzeczywiście, właściwie
Christmas Day | pierwszy dzień świąt Bożego Narodzenia
Christmas Eve | Wigilia
to be in for sth | tu: załapać się na coś
entrée | przystawka
main course | główne danie
variety | różnorodność
appetizer | przystawka, zakąska
2 to break sth down | tu: rozłożyć coś na części, wyłożyć coś w zrozumiały sposób

really clarify what the soup is made of, so let's break it down. Usually, it's a celeriac or parsnip soup with hazelnuts and if that wasn't fancy enough, it can also be sprinkled with a little bit of truffle oil. It's quite a luxurious dish, as well as a perfect starter. It's light, tasty and relatively easy to prepare and serve.

Smoked salmon is also a popular ingredient of Christmas dinner starter dishes. Come Christmas, on a typical British table you can spot, for example, smoked salmon soufflés. Similarly to Christmas soup, they can be prepared beforehand, then easily reheated and quickly served as a tasty starter. Alternatively, smoked salmon can also be served with a bit of crème fraîche (thick, high-fat cream) and grated beetroot on top.

- parsnip** | pasternak
hazelnut | orzech laskowy
fancy | fantazyjny, wymyślny
sprinkled with sth | pokropiony czymś
smoked | wędzony
salmon 'sæmən | łosoś
to spot sth | spostrzec coś
soufflé | suflet
beforehand | z wyprzedzeniem
reheated | odgrzany
crème fraîche | śmietana zakwaszona
grated | utarty, w wiórkach
beetroot | burak

Exotic Christmas Foods & drinks



Jamaica – Sorrel



Brazil – Farofa



Argentina – Clericó



Puerto Rico – Arroz con gandules



Venezuela – Pan de jamón

Some other light dishes perfect to start a Christmas dinner with are made with goat cheese. Grilled goat cheese goes well with another British Christmas classic – cranberry sauce. Instead of grilling it, goat cheese can also be fried, and the cranberry sauce can be replaced with pears and walnuts roasted in honey. Doesn't that sound great?

Generally, all starter dishes should be light and appetizing. The choice belongs to the hosts of the dinner and, well, they've got a lot to choose from. The starters mentioned before are just the tip of the iceberg. Grilled cheese, celery, or salmon are not a must, so don't be surprised if none of them appear at the table as a starter. The main dish, on the other hand, is almost always the same...

Turkey and Stuff

It's time for the turkey. Not any turkey – the Christmas turkey, the real show stealer of any Christmas table in Great Britain. The tradition of serving turkey for Christmas spread over the United Kingdom during the 17th Century. Back then, goose was also a popular, although, just like turkey, quite expensive choice. Nowadays, however, the popularity of turkey as the go-to Christmas dish greatly outweighs that of goose. It is estimated that ten million turkeys are eaten in Britain every Christmas, while only 200,000 geese get served each year.

There are tens, if not hundreds of ways to serve a turkey. After a turkey gobbles

3 cranberry sauce | sos żurawinowy
instead of sth | zamiast czegoś
pear | gruszka
walnut | orzech włoski
roasted in sth | pieczony w czymś
host | gospodarz
the tip of the iceberg | wierzchołek góry lodowej
must | konieczność
on the other hand | z drugiej strony
turkey 'tɜ:kɪ / 'tɜ:rkɪ | indyk
show stealer | coś, co przykuwa całą uwagę/
 przyćmiewa resztę
to spread | rozprzestrzenić się
nowadays | obecnie
to outweigh sth | mieć przewagę/
 nad czymś
to gobble | gulgotać

his last gobble, its fate is in the hands of the cook. The classic Christmas turkey served in the UK can be stuffed with all kinds of goodies. Onions, garlic and citruses are a common choice. All kinds of herbs can also go inside a turkey. A keen palate would surely appreciate aromas of thyme and rosemary when taking a bite. Preparing a turkey is a serious business, so make sure to appreciate the cook's hard work.

Although turkey definitely steals the show as the main course, there are also some side dishes served with the main. Roast potatoes are a solid choice – they go very well with turkey. Vegetables are also popular as side dishes. Spiced cabbage, parsnips and Brussels sprouts commonly appear on British Christmas tables. If you're a fan of sauces, you'd surely love Christmas in England. Cranberry sauce enriches the turkey or one of the many side dishes with its tart taste, while bread & onion sauce acts as the perfect, creamy dressing.

The Dessert

When the turkey is gone, the sweets come in. It wouldn't be a real British Christmas without Christmas pudding. Now, Christmas pudding has all sorts of recipes, but mostly the same ingredients and similar cooking techniques. Many British families use their own recipes which were have been used for years and have been passed on through the generations. Essentially, Christmas pudding is

4 fate | los
onion | cebula
garlic | czosnek
common | powszechny,
 tu: popularny
keen | tu: wyrobiony, wybredny
palate | podniebienie
to appreciate sth | docenić coś
thyme | tymianek
rosemary | rozmaryn
to take a bite | brać gryza
definitely | zdecydowanie
Brussels sprout | brukselka
to enrich sth | wzbogacać coś
recipe 'resəpi | przepis
to pass sth on through the generations
 | przekazywać sobie coś z pokolenia na pokolenie

made of breadcrumbs, a little flour, suet (hard animal fat), dried fruits (such as raisins), sugar and spices. It takes a while to prepare Christmas pudding – they are often made months in advance and left to mature. So, if you're up to the task, make sure you've got enough time. When it's done, it can be flambeed – so, poured over with a little warmed alcohol like brandy or rum and set alight, so the pudding arrives at the table in flames. The taste of the pudding is very rich thanks to the abundance of ingredients that make up the dish.

Another very British dish to place on the Christmas table is a trifle. Trifles

can be compared to layered cakes. They consist of sponge fingers, jelly, cream and fruits, which are sometimes fully replaced by chocolate or coffee. Trifles are soaked in alcohol – most commonly sherry, but once again the choice is up to the cook.

There's also the British Christmas cake. It's a dense dessert enriched with dried fruits soaked in... you guessed it, alcohol. The cake can be prepared even a month before Christmas – it's then left to dry and mature, just like the pudding. During this process it can occasionally be poured with... once again, alcohol.

When the cake is ready, the British like to sprinkle it with marzipan and add some icing.

Tradition is Forever

Most of the British Christmas dishes have been around for centuries, and so their position is pretty much solidified. No wonder – it's a great, rich and tasty menu and there's no need to replace or change it. Looking for inspiration to cook something not so run-off-the-mill this Christmas? Give British Christmas dishes a spin. ■

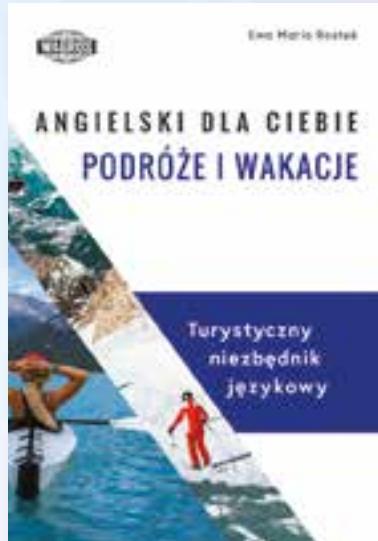
5 **breadcrumb** | okruch chleba
 suet | łoj
 raisin | rodzynek
 in advance | z wyprzedzeniem
 to mature | dojrzewać, dojrzeć
 to be up to the task | podołać czemuś,
 sprostać zadaniu

flambeed | płonący
 abundance ə'bʌndəns | obfitość
 to make up sth | składać się na coś, tworzyć coś
 6 layered | warstwowy
 to consist of sth | składać się z czegoś
 sponge finger | biszkopt
 jelly | galaretka

soaked in sth | nasączony czymś
 poured with sth | polany czymś
 7 to sprinkle sth with sth | posypać coś czymś
 icing | polewa
 to look for sth | szukać czegoś
 run-off-the-mill | zwyczajny
 to give sth a spin | spróbować czegoś



i nauka języka staje się przyjemnością...



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Christmas Broadcast

by Kamil Drożdżyk

Many of us can't imagine Christmas without decorated trees, carols, Santa's hats, gifts and family get-togethers. Britons can add one more thing to the list – Christmas Broadcasts. Let's take a look at the beginnings and evolution of this British tradition.

When, in 1922, John Reith, the then general manager of BBC, approached King George V with a proposition to do a radio broadcast, he met with a refusal. King George V didn't consider the radio a serious medium, as it was mostly used for entertainment. It took ten years for the king to change his views on radio. On December 25th, 1932, presumably after some convincing from his close ones, King George V sat down in a temporary studio set up at his Sandringham Mansion and gave the first ever Royal Christmas Message.

Early Years

King George V kept his 1932 speech short, clear and to the point. The first

broadcast took no longer than three minutes. Despite being rather modest, the broadcast turned out to be a huge success. It's worth mentioning that the speech wasn't written by the king himself, but by Rudyard Kipling, a renowned English author. A year later, King George V gave another speech, then another, then yet another, and so the annual Christmas tradition was born.

Let's see what Royal Christmas Messages were, and are, all about. First and foremost, as one might guess, they are simply about wishing all the citizens of the Commonwealth a merry Christmas. A simple idea, but it was undoubtedly quite revolutionary in 1932 to broadcast a live king's voice to millions of people nationwide. Secondly, the monarch could use the Christmas speech as an opportunity to sum up the recent year, talk about plans for the future and reassure

0 broadcast | audycja
without sth | bez czegoś
get-together | spotkanie towarzyskie
1 to approach sb | zbliżyć się do kogoś
refusal *rɪ'fju:zɪl* | odmowa
to consider sth sth | uważać coś za coś
entertainment | rozrywka
view on sth | pogląd na coś
presumably *pri'zju:məbli* / *pri'zu:məbli* | prawdopodobnie
convincing | przekonywanie
temporary | czasowy, okresowy
to the point | rzeczowy, konkretny

2 despite sth | po/mimo czegoś
to turn out to be | okazać się
it's worth mentioning that... | warto wspomnieć, że...
renowned *ri'naʊnd* | sławny, słynny
annual | coroczny
first and foremost | po pierwsze, przede wszystkim
Commonwealth | Wspólnota Narodów
undoubtedly *ʌn'daʊtɪdli* | niewątpliwie
live *laɪf* | na żywo
secondly | po drugie
to reassure sb about sth | zapewnić kogoś o czymś



the citizens about their safety and the development of the Kingdom.

The festive vibe of the Royal Christmas Message had to be replaced with a more serious one just seven years after the first speech, in 1939. The year marked the beginning of World War II. King George VI, whose country had been entangled in the conflict almost since its very beginning, in September, delivered a memorable, chilling message. The King's 1939 Christmas speech ended with a preamble to then relatively unknown poem *The Gate of the Year* by Minnie Louise Haskins. The poem expressed uncertainty about the future. In the poem, the speaker asks God to point them in the right direction. Although king George VI communicated his worries about the days to come, he also reassured his citizens that peace would definitely come, one day or another.

Queen Elizabeth the Regular

1952 marks the very first Christmas Royal Message read by Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen has so far given plenty of Christmas speeches, so it's safe to say that her Majesty is pretty experienced in this field by now. The first one was quite an important one, as the Queen had the tough task of taking over the Empire at the young age of 26. She had to honour her late father, who had died in February that year, as well as present herself as strong, charismatic and capable of taking over his duties.

3 citizen | obywatel
festive | świąteczny
vibe | atmosfera
entangled in sth | uwikłany w coś
chilling | *tu:* krzepiący
preamble | preambuła, wstęp
although | chociaż
definitely | zdecydowanie
to mark sth | upamiętniać coś, wyznaczać coś, charakteryzować coś
plenty of sth | mnóstwo czegoś
tough | trudny
to take sth over | przejąć coś
late | zmarły
charismatic | *kærɪz'mætɪk* | charyzmatyczny
capable | *keɪpəbl* | zdolny
4 needless to say | rzecz jasna

Needless to say, the Queen delivered. In her first speech, Queen Elizabeth II managed to convey strong patriotic and religious messages, as well as talk about the upcoming coronation. The Queen also asked the listeners to pray for her, so that God could always be by her side when making important royal decisions.

Then, a big break came for Royal Christmas Messages in 1957, twenty five years after the initial broadcast. That year the Christmas Broadcast was shown on television for the first time ever. Television made the Queen an even more "palpable" figure. Prior to that, most people could only see photos of Elizabeth II, or just hear her voice on the radio. In 1957, however, owners of a TV set were able to see Queen Elizabeth II in all her glory. What's equally important is the fact that the Queen relayed her 1957 Christmas message from her home (which she does to this day). It painted the Queen as quite ordinary and modest, but still dignified.

Most of the British can only remember the Queen ever appearing in the Royal Christmas Broadcast. After all, the Queen's been at it for sixty eight years now. Since 1952, there was, however, one British Christmas without the Queen wishing her nation Merry Christmas – 1969. What happened in 1969? Nothing too major. It was Queen Elizabeth II's decision not to do a live Christmas speech and the reason was quite trivial, if not odd. The Queen believed that the Royal Family had received way too much media coverage that year (in big part due to the 1969 documentary movie titled *Royal Family*). Instead of giving a speech, the

to deliver | *tu:* odnieść sukces, spisać się na piątkę
to manage to do sth | poradzić sobie ze zrobieniem czegoś
to convey sth | przekazać coś
upcoming | nadchodzący
to pray for sb | modlić się za kogoś
initial | początkowy
palpable | *tu:* wyrazisty
prior to sth | wcześniej, przed czymś
to relay sth | *tu:* nadawać coś
dignified | czcigodny
odd | dziwny, osobliwy
media coverage | przedstawianie, prezentowanie kogoś w mediach
due to sth | z powodu czegoś
instead of sth | zamiast czegoś

Queen's message was issued in writing. The royal expressed hope that the written version would not be taken as less warm and personal than giving a live speech.

Majestic Honesty and Controversy

In the following years, the Royal Christmas Message kept breaking viewership records, and it was generally considered a well-liked part of Christmas in Great Britain. It was a moment of honesty from the Queen, who rarely made public appearances. For example, 1992 wasn't a good year for the Royal Family, and the Queen's speech reflected it. She addressed the fire that had consumed a good chunk of Windsor Castle; she also spoke about the divorces of three of her children.

In 1997, after Princess Diana's tragic death, the Queen met with criticism in the media. The reason for the controversies surrounding Queen Elizabeth II's reaction to Diana's death was the fact that her Majesty had decided to stay in Balmoral Castle, Scotland, for a couple of days following Diana's accident, instead of immediately going back to London. Naturally, Queen Elizabeth II responded to the criticism during her Royal Speech. The 1997 message, focussing mostly on honouring the late Princess Diana, was the longest of Royal Christmas Messages, running for nearly ten minutes.

As time moves on, the authority of the Queen is diminishing, and a general animosity towards elites is growing, especially among younger generations. This is especially visible in the backlash which the Queen received for her 2018 Christmas Broadcast. The Queen talked about unity and equality, while being surrounded by posh, expensive décor and even a golden piano, for which she received heavy criticism on the Internet.

Part of the Charm

After the 2018 fiasco, the Queen and her advisors have been more careful with choosing her Majesty's surroundings. Despite the recent controversy, the 2020 speech was at the tippy-top of the TV ratings, with more than 8 million viewers. On top of that, it can now be watched

virtually anywhere thanks to the Internet. It seems like the tradition is not going anywhere. After all, many Brits can't imagine Christmas without watching the Queen's speech. It's part of the holiday – next to turkey, Christmas markets and Jingle Bells. ■

5 issued | wystosowany
honesty | szczerość
to make public appearance | występować publicznie
to reflect sth | odzwierciedlać coś

chunk of sth | znacza część czegoś
divorce | rozwód
to focus on sth | skupiać się na czymś
to diminish | maleć
animosity | wrogość
backlash | gwałtowna reakcja
posh | elegancki
advisor | doradca
surroundings | otoczenie
at the tippy-top | na szczytce
on top of that | na dodatek
6 virtually | praktycznie
turkey | indyk



The Queen's Personality

Curiously enough, not much is known about the Queen's personality. She rarely makes public appearances, and even if she does, it is more than likely her speeches are written by royal advisors. The only information the general public has about the Queen's personality comes from insiders, or other persons of authority who have had the chance to speak with Elizabeth II in private. Apparently, Queen Elizabeth II is characterised by her clever sense of humour, individualism and ability to keep her cool. Other than that, the Queen's personality is shrouded in secrecy.

apparently | najwidoczniej
individualism | indywidualizm
to be shrouded in secrecy | być okrytym tajemnicą

Christmassy Christmas

by Jonathan Sidor

Christmas is just about everyone's favourite time of year. But can you really enjoy it if you don't feel comfortable talking about it? Get in the spirit as *English Matters* reviews the most important Christmas vocabulary.

comfortable 'kʌmftəbl / 'kʌmfətbl | komfortowo, wygodnie

Winter Decorations

- Do you think that's too much tinsel for the tree?
- Which Christmas ornament is your favourite?
- There's so much holly all over her house.
- Did you see the mistletoe hanging over the doorway?
- We bought a fir tree, but our neighbours prefer spruces.
- Don't forget to hang the stockings over the fireplace.
- We always hang up our Christmas lights at the last minute.
- I forgot to put a wreath on our front door.

tinsel | świecidełko, błyskotka

Christmas ornament | ozdoba świąteczna

holly | ostrokrzew

mistletoe 'mɪsltəʊ / 'mɪzltəʊ | jemioła

fir tree | jodła

spruce | świerk

stocking | tu:skarpeta

fireplace | kominek

wreath | świąteczny stroik





Christmas Shopping

Tracy: Can you believe these queues? We'll be stuck here for ages. I detest Christmas shopping.

Arnold: I had a difficult enough time finding a parking spot. Let's just review what we need again, to make sure we don't forget anything.

Tracy: We already bought a lot of presents on Black Friday, remember?

Arnold: Yes, but we still have to get those new-fangled toys for your niece and nephew.

Tracy: They do their own gift wrapping here. We have to remember to ask for it.

Arnold: And then we'll have to collect all of the food that we want to bring to Janice's party.

Tracy: Right. I'll be baking some sweets, maybe a yule log, so I'll get those ingredients.

Arnold: I was going to bake a ham, so I'll grab everything I need for that. Are we missing anything?

queue | kolejka

to be stuck somewhere for ages | utknąć gdzieś na wieki

parking spot | miejsce parkingowe

new-fangled | dopiero co wprowadzony na rynek, nowomodny (ironicznie)

niece | siostrzenica, bratanica

nephew | siostrzeniec, bratanek

gift wrapping | pakowanie prezentów

to collect sth | zebrać coś

ingredient | składnik

to bake sth | upiec coś

ham | szynka

to grab sth | chwycić coś

A Bit of Religion

Jesus was born in a manger.

A model that recreates the birth of Jesus with small figures is called a nativity scene.

The Three Magi brought Jesus the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

My grandmother always buys me an Advent calendar.

Many features of Santa Claus are based on the real-life story of Saint Nicholas.

The wise men followed the star of Bethlehem to find Jesus.

Do you plan to attend midnight mass?

manger | żłób

nativity scene | szopka

bożonarodzeniowa

the Three Magi ðə θri: 'meɪdʒər | Trzej Królowie

frankincense | kadzidło

feature | cecha

the wise men | mędrcy

Bethlehem 'beθlɪəm | Betlejem

to attend sth | uczestniczyć w czymś

midnight mass | pasterka

Decorating at Home

Eric: OK, I think that's the last of the boxes from the garage. Now we can start hanging up all of the decorations.

Meredith: Wow, we've got a lot of work ahead of us. I'll get started on the lights. What will you tackle?

Eric: I think half of these boxes are for tree ornaments, so I'd like to get the biggest job out of the way.

Meredith: Makes sense. And don't forget about the tinsel and string popcorn.

Eric: Gosh, I get the feeling like this could take all day. Are we sure we'll still want to do all the little things? You know, the wreath, the holly, and the stockings?

Meredith: It just won't feel like Christmas without all those things. Come on, we'll put some classic Christmas films on the TV and just power through it.

Eric: That doesn't sound like a bad idea. I'll make some hot cocoa and get some of the Christmas cookies ready for us, too.

Meredith: Oh my goodness! If we start playing some Christmas music, it'll soon look like a Christmas explosion in here.

to tackle sth | stawić czemuś czoła

come on | (no) dalej

to power through sth | ukończyć coś po/mimo trudności

All about Santa

- My family never said Santa – we called him Father Christmas.
- Make sure to leave a treat for Santa by the chimney.
- Santa's elves make Christmas toys at his workshop at the North Pole.
- The stories all say Santa is jolly with a twinkle in his eye.
- Santa rides on a sleigh pulled by reindeer.
- Santa keeps all of the toys in his sack.

treat | smakołyk
chimney | kominek
workshop | warsztat
twinkle | błysk
sleigh | sanie

Touching Traditions

- Let's visit the town's Christmas market.
- My mother always donates a gift or two to our local toy drive.
- He takes a photo with his family each year and sends out a Christmas card to his friends.
- I love playing Elf on the Shelf with my kids.
- We use our nicest china and cutlery for Christmas dinner.
- My girlfriend's family wear matching pyjamas every Christmas morning.

touching | wzruszający
toy drive | zbiórka zabawek
cutlery | sztućce
matching | pasujące (do siebie)

Snowy Activities

Would you like to go sledging or tobogganing? I enjoy riding my snowmobile when there's lots of snow. My favourite winter sports are hockey, curling and cross-country skiing. I dream of taking a horse-drawn sleigh ride in the snow. When I was a child, the neighbourhood kids always organised snowball fights. Do carollers often visit you?

to go sledging | iść na sanki
to go tobogganing | iść na śliszgacz/sanki (bez płóz)
snowmobile | skuter śnieżny
curling | zawody na lodzie polegające na pchnięciu do celu ciężkiego kamienia
cross-country skiing | narciarstwo biegowe
neighbourhood | tu: z sąsiedztwa
snowball fight | bitwa na śnieżki
caroller | kolędnik



A New Kind of Tree

Many old-fashioned souls can't imagine a Christmas without the hunt for the perfect tree. This routine, though, might become a thing of the past, as people are making more ecological and economical choices. Why? The arguments are that Christmas trees are simply too expensive, or that the business of farming Christmas trees can be environmentally destructive. So what's the solution?

A growing number of people are listening to these points and are opting for artificial trees. Why? One benefit of artificial trees is that they give you more bang for your buck. You won't have to throw out your pricey natural tree every single year. Also, many supporters argue that artificial trees are more ecological than trees that have been farmed on a large scale. Farming millions of trees worldwide likely has a negative impact, so choosing a no-frills artificial tree is likely a more sustainable choice, too.

environmentally in'veərən'mentəlɪ

| środowiskowo, dla środowiska

artificial | sztuczny

more bang for your buck | pot. stosunek ceny do wartości, być wartym wydanej kaszy

to throw sth out | wyrzucać coś

pricey | kosztowny

supporter | zwolennik

impact | wpływ

no-frills

| podstawowy, prosty, uproszczony

sustainable se'steɪnəbl

| zrównoważony, nienaruszający równowagi ekologicznej



A Christmas Pickle?

Think you know every Christmas tradition? What about the Christmas pickle? If this is a new one for you, don't worry – it still hasn't caught on with everyone yet. Popular lore around the tradition say it comes from Germany, but most Germans will likely have no idea what you're talking about if you mention the Christmas pickle around them. So, what is it? Basically, the adults in the family get a Christmas ornament of a pickle. There's nothing special about it – it's just small and green. On Christmas morning, the adults should hide the pickle somewhere deep in the needles of the Christmas tree. Since the tree and the ornament are both green, the ornament should be well-camouflaged. Any children present then must look for the pickle. The first child to discover it gets some kind of reward. The family ultimately decides, but common prizes include getting to open the first gift or getting an extra gift.

Christmas pickle | świąteczna ozdoba choinkowa w kształcie kiszzonego ogórka
to catch on | przyjąć się, stać się popularnym
to mention sth | wspomnieć o czymś
adult | dorosły
to hide sth | ukryć coś
needle | igła
to look for sth | szukać czegoś
to discover sth | odkryć coś
reward *rɪ'wɔ:d / rɪ'wɔ:rd* | nagroda
ultimately | ostatecznie, w końcu
common | powszechny, *tu: popularny*
prize | nagroda
to include sth | obejmować coś



Christmas Morning

Bobby: Mum! Dad! Merry Christmas!

Mum: Merry Christmas, Bobby. Have you seen the Christmas tree, yet?

Bobby: I just ran by. There are so many presents. Can we open them now?

Mum: Of course. Let me just get the camera ready. I want to document the whole morning.

Bobby: I want to open this one first. It's...a Christmas sweater. It looks a little big.

Mum: Oh, I'm sure you'll grow into it. It's perfect for this season. We'll have you put it on later so we can take some photos to share with your grandparents.

Bobby: OK. Which gift should I open next?

Mum: Have you seen your stocking? I think Santa put a little surprise in there. What could it be?

to run by sth | *tu: przejść obok, minąć coś*

Festive Foods

- I love candy canes.
- My grandmother makes a yule log each year.
- It's not a real Christmas party without eggnog.
- I only eat canned yams during Christmas time.
- I can't believe your family eats pheasant for Christmas dinner.
- I prefer peppermint bark to gingerbread men.

festive | świąteczny

candy cane | laska cukrowa

yule log | ciasto w kształcie kłody

jedzone w Boże Narodzenie

without sth | bez czegoś

eggnog | ajerkonik

yam *jæm* | pochrzyn chiński, rodzaj ziemniaka

pheasant | bażant

peppermint bark | kora mięty

pieprzowej (rodzaj słodyczy)

gingerbread man

| pieernikowy ludzik



Off We Go!

by Ewelina Błońska

Should I stay or should I go? Are you a rolling stone, or a home bird who would prefer never to leave their own nest, especially at Christmas? This time we present some comments connected to travelling over the festive season.

Some say that taking a step away from the usual Christmas day at home and going away can allow you to re-focus and remember what this time of year is truly all about. Take a look at these people's opinions and decide who is more convincing for you.

I'm fond of travelling, but because of my constant work I cannot travel whenever I want. I need to wait for the Christmas holidays and then off we go! Last year I visited Venice which was a perfect choice. Avoiding over-stuffed sights, I spent a few nights in the city, slowly exploring its hidden corners, eating at neighbourhood restaurants and shopping in small, independent stores. During that time, I could walk through St Mark's without landing a selfie stick in the eye. And if you get super-lucky, you can see snow. One more thing, if you suffer from winter depression, you can always choose some places with a warmer, sunnier climate to get some family winter sun. I wholeheartedly recommend going on a winter break.

– Mark

Staying at home over Christmas or Easter is not my cup of tea. All those meetings with nosy aunties and inquisitive relatives rob me of my sleep. In order to escape from the clutches of my family, I always pack my bag and go where the mood takes me. Together with my friend, who is also an action seeker, we choose fabulous places to go. We like to feel the atmosphere of Christmas, but not necessarily staying at home. Kraków, for instance in December looks like a Christmas card. The Old Town's medieval main square is all cobblestoned; you can admire horse-and-carriage rides, and Christmas markets seducing you into trying dumplings and pork knuckles. That is a perfect match.

– Renata

Off we go! | Wyruszamy!

rolling stone | osoba, która dużo podróżuje i nie może usiedzieć w jednym miejscu przez dłuższy czas

home bird 'həʊm bɜ:d / bɜ:rd | domator

festive | świąteczny

to allow sb to do sth | pozwolić komuś na zrobienie czegoś

to re-focus | ponownie się skupić

convincing | przekonujący

to be fond of sth | bardzo coś lubić

Venice 'venɪs | Wenecja

over-stuffed | przeładowany

sight | widok

a few | kilka

hidden | ukryty

corner | kąt

neighbourhood | sąsiadujący

without sth | bez czegoś

selfie stick | kijek do robienia zdjęć selfie

wholeheartedly ,həʊl'ha:tɪdli / ,həʊl'ha:rtɪdli | z całego serca, gorąco

not sb's cup of tea | nie czyjaś bajka

nosy | wąsibski

inquisitive in'kwi:zətɪv | docieklewy

relative | krewny

to rob sb of one's sleep | pozbawiać kogoś snu

in order to | aby, żeby

clutch | tu: uścisk, chwyt

fabulous 'fæbjʊləs | bajeczny

medieval ,medɪ:l'ɪ:vɪl / ,mi:d'l:ɪ:vɪl | średniowieczny

cobblestoned | wybrukowany

to seduce sb into doing sth | skusić kogoś do zrobienia czegoś

dumpling | pieróg

pork knuckle | golonka

(to make) a perfect match | doskonale do siebie pasować

Can you imagine cleaning the whole house, and cooking or baking so many dishes? I used to do that for many years, working my fingers to the bone. Never again! My husband and kids love spending Christmas in the mountains in our favourite cosy cabin, where the owners prepare everything for their guests. One of the major appeals of spending Christmas in the mountains is the opportunity to witness the gorgeous winter scenery! The snowcapped mountains are a photographer's dream, and you can enjoy these tremendous views right from your cabin. Horse-drawn sleighs, twinkling trees, mulled wine stalls, a pretty village aglow in a lovely little valley – do you need anything else? – **Sue**

If you ask me, Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year and it's also one of the most enjoyable for our family. However, I'm fed up with running around buying and wrapping presents as well as preparing dinner, doing household chores. I need to recharge my batteries and allow myself to unwind. Therefore, we decided to get away from it all. Me and my partner just hopped in our car and drove to a magical destination that we could enjoy. One of the best things about going on holiday over the festive period is eating a Christmas dinner you haven't had to cook. This winter break became a whole lot more relaxing for both of us. We will try it next year, too! – **Matthew**

Let's see it from a different perspective

As far as I'm concerned, there is no better option than staying at home and celebrating Christmas with your family. You can decorate your house as you wish, dress your dream Christmas tree and enjoy the whole festive atmosphere. I cannot imagine sleeping in a foreign place, not in my bed! Every year we meet with our family, sing Christmas carols and play games, just enjoying these beautiful moments. In my opinion, spending time with family as much as possible can help develop positive family values. – **Sylvia**

to work one's fingers to the bone | urabiać sobie ręce po łokcie

cosy | przytulny

cabin | tu: chata, chatka w górach

owner | właściciel

major | główny

appeal | urok

to witness sth | doświadczać czegoś

gorgeous 'gɔ:dʒəs / 'gɔ:rdʒəs

| zachwycający

scenery 'sɪ:nəri | sceneria, widoki, krajobraz

snowcapped | pokryty śniegiem

tremendous | wspaniały

sleigh | sanie

twinkling | skrącający się, migoczący

mulled wine | grzaniec

stall | stoisko

to aglow | promienięjący

enjoyable in'dʒɔ:rəbl | radosny

to be fed up with sth | mieć czegoś dość

to wrap sth | pakować coś

household | gospodarstwo domowe

chores tʃɔ:(r)z / tʃɔ:rz

| obowiązki, prace domowe

to recharge one's batteries

| naładować baterie

to allow oneself to do sth

| pozwolić sobie na zrobienie czegoś

to unwind | zrelaksować się, odprężyć się

to get away from sth | uciec od czegoś

as far as I'm concerned | moim zdaniem

foreign | obcy

Christmas carol | kolęda

I'm a traditionalist and Christmas should be spent at home, around the table. We love baking – which is an important holiday activity to bring people together, whether it's preparing Christmas dinner or baking cookies. This is a great opportunity to share family recipes and make the house smell incredible. We mustn't forget that spending time with family fosters a healthy environment allowing for open communication. Of course, without smartphones and social media all the time, that's why we introduced a "Phone Off" policy to find more time for each other during the festive period. – **Calvin**

As a child I used to travel a lot with my parents. We never spent Christmas or Easter at home as my father used to work in many different places. When I grew up, I promised myself that I would celebrate every Christmas at home with my family and friends. The more guests, the better. I hate an empty, silent home which is filled only with some sounds from the TV. I love the hustle and bustle of my relatives. Every year, I organise Christmas Eve, which of course can be quite time-consuming and very tiring, but I do not want to spend Christmas as my parents did – new hotels, new places, forgetting what really matters in life.

– **Samantha**

I'm a very religious individual who is waiting for Christmas the whole year. How can I leave my home during this time? I sing in a choir and my community is the most important for me. It's true that in the past I was really exhausted after Christmas, but last year I made the decision to slow down during December, letting go of certain expectations like Christmas baking. Making this decision was freeing and it gave our family time to truly enjoy Advent and Christmas together. Thanks to this, we can really enjoy these special moments, putting Christ in the centre of our family.

– **Kate**

While some travel lovers roll their eyes at the thought of going back home and spending a week with family, many of us acknowledge that family time has a way of giving us warm, fuzzy feelings. One thing is certain, you need to feel comfortable during the festive season – if you want, have family and friends together around the table, overindulge in delicious food, give and receive presents, and engage in traditions and rituals – religious or otherwise. Feel free, and enjoy these beautiful moments in life. ■

recipe 'resəpi | przepis

incredible in'kredəbl | niezwykły

| niewiarygodny

to foster sth | sprzyjać czemuś, pielegnować, wspierać coś

environment | środowisko

policy | polityka

to grow up | dorastać, dorosnąć

hustle and bustle | harmider, zgiełk

Christmas Eve | Wigilia

religious rɪ'lɪdʒəs | religijny

choir 'kwaɪə(r) | chór

community | społeczność

exhausted ig'zɔ:stɪd | wyczerpany

freeing | wyzwalający,

oswobadzający, dający wolność

to roll one's eyes | przewracać oczy

at the thought of sth | na myśl o czymś

to acknowledge sth tu

æk'nolɪdʒ / æk'na:ɪdʒ 'sʌmθɪŋ

| przyznawać coś

fuzzy | tu: ciepły, przyjemny, pozytywny

comfortable 'kʌmfətbl /

'kʌmfətbl | komfortowo

to overindulge in sth | dogadzać sobie czymś

to engage in sth | angażować się w coś

otherwise | inne

Surviving Christmas

by Ewelina Błońska

For many, Christmas is a wonderful day filled with family, gifts, delicious food and joyous moments. But for some people the festive season can also be one of the most stressful and challenging periods. Don't worry! This time, we have some advice how to survive Christmas unscathed.

The expense of gifts and food, the pressure of shopping, family gatherings, old sibling rivalries and the general expectations of the season can make Christmas an extremely stressful time. Take a look at a couple of tips to avoid the Christmas madness and have a bit more time to spend under the mistletoe.

joyous 'dʒɔrəs | radosny
advice | rada
unscathed ʌn'skeɪð | nietknięty, bez szwanku
family gathering | spotkanie rodzinne
sibling | rodzeństwo
to avoid sth | uniknąć czegoś
mistletoe 'mɪsltəʊ / 'mɪzltəʊ | jemioła

Avoid Family Drama on Christmas

Spending a lot of time with people you don't particularly like, but feel obliged to be with during this time of year can be quite unpleasant and emotionally draining. Those inquisitive aunties, asking uncomfortable questions about your marital status, children or sometimes even your weight can be a real nightmare! When you are confronted with a family member who drives you nuts, try to get ready to count to ten before you say anything. You can plan in advance how to respond and be prepared. It's also advisable to watch your alcohol consumption during these family gatherings, it will put breaks on your impulses and comments that you may later regret. Take a deep breath, give the concise answer and then try to change the topic to a neutral one.

particularly pə'tɪkjkələli / pər'tɪkjkələrli
 | szczególnie
unpleasant | nieprzyjemne
inquisitive in'kwizitiv | ciekawski, wąsibski
auntie | pot. ciocieczka, ciotunia
uncomfortable ʌn'kʌmfətbl / ʌn'kʌmfətbl
 | niewygodny
marital | małżeński
weight wéit | waga
nightmare | koszmar
to drive sb nuts | doprowadzać kogoś do szaleństwa
to count to ten | policzyć do dziesięciu
in advance | z wyprzedzeniem
to put breaks on sth | po/hamować coś

to regret sth | żałować
 czegoś
concise | zwięzły, krótki



Plethora of unwanted gifts!

Another pair of fluffy socks? A book you have read already? Or maybe a new scarf that is not your style? Sometimes we can pile up our presents after Christmas. What are we to do with them? You can donate them to charity, and know your gifts have gone to someone who actually needs and appreciates them. Of course, if you've got a gift receipt, you can always take it back to the shop. Finally, why not sell it on the Internet? Just make sure the person who gave you the gift isn't following your auctions. Good luck!

plethora of sth | mnóstwo czegoś
fluffy | puchaty, puszysty
to pile up sth | układać coś w sterty
charity | organizacja dobroczyńna
actually | naprawdę, rzeczywiście
to appreciate sth | docenić coś
receipt rɪ'sɪt | paragon
good luck! | powodzenia!



Tips

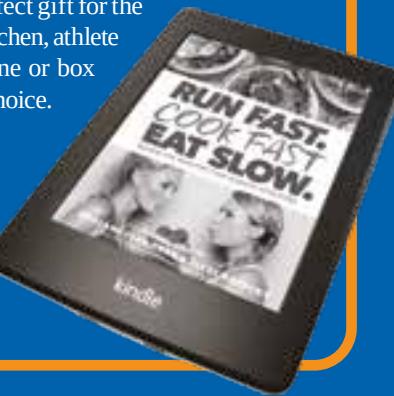
2

Be Assertive!

Help yourself, try this, do you want seconds of cheesecake? Undoubtedly, Christmas dishes are luscious and enticing, however it is quite easy to gain some additional kilogrammes during this festive period. If your mother-in-law offers you another portion, don't cave in and accept it, stay assertive instead. You don't have to force yourself to eat something you're not craving. You have control over what you consume. One simple trick is to bring your own healthy dish to share. This way, you can guarantee you'll have something to eat that aligns with your weight goals. The best advice is moderation – apply it to everything you eat and drink.

help yourself | częstuj się
seconds of sth | dokładka
czegoś
cheesecake | sernik
undoubtedly | bez
wątpienia, niewątpliwie
luscious | ʌnʃəs | przepyszny
enticing | nęiący, kuszący
to gain sth |
u/zyskać coś
mother-in-law |
teściowa

to cave in | uginać się,
ustępować
instead | zamiast (tego)
to force oneself to do sth
| zmuszać się do zrobienia
czegoś
to crave sth | tu: mieć
ochotę na coś
to align with sth | być
zgodnym z czymś
to apply sth to sth
| stosować coś do
czegoś



Gift Suggestions

If you can't decide what to buy your best friend or in-laws this year, we've rounded up some Christmas gift suggestions, for example: Kindle Paperwhite – the ideal present for the reader, which will let the recipient read without straining their eyes; *Run Fast. Eat Slow: Nourishing Recipes for Athletes*: a cookbook which is the perfect gift for the person who loves experimenting in the kitchen, athlete or not, or just a bottle of a favourite wine or box of chocolates would be always a good choice.

in-laws | teściowie
recipient | odbiorca, tu: obdarowany
to strain sth | nadwyręzać coś
nourishing | odżywczy, pożywny
recipe | przepis

Avoid Sedentary Activities

Inactivity may contribute to weight gain, especially if accompanied by overindulging. This situation can stress you out. What can you do?

The antidote for holiday weight-gain stress could be just as simple as going for a walk. Regular exercise can help to decrease tension, as well as boost and stabilise your mood. Furthermore, exercising produces endorphins that improve your ability to sleep. Moreover, as you decorated the tree or baked festive cookies, forget all the items left on your to-do list and give yourself permission to have fun. Laughter is the best medicine!

sedentary | siedzący
to contribute to sth | przyczyniać się do czegoś
overindulging | nadmierne dogadzanie sobie
weight-gain | przybranie na wadze
to decrease sth | zmniejszyć coś
to boost sth | poprawić coś
furthermore | ponadto
to improve sth | polepszyć,
poprawić coś
moreover | ponadto
to bake sth | u/piec coś
permission |
pozwolenie,
zezwolenie
laughter
'la:ftə(r) /
'læftər
| śmiech



A Final Thought....

Christmas is considered the happiest time of the year, and we should be excited to decorate the house, pick out a beautiful tree, wrap presents or bake our favourite cookies. Why should we feel anxious and overwhelmed during this magical time? Let's just look beneath the tinsel and the glitter to the beautiful gift of togetherness and enjoy the season for what it should be. Merry Christmas! ■

to pick out sth | wybrać coś
anxious | niespokojny
overwhelmed, əʊvə'welmd / ,əʊvə'rwelmd
| przytłoczony
tinsel | tu:blichtr
glitter | migotanie, blask

Lapland: a Visit to Father Christmas's Land

by Joanna Naporowska

Even if you haven't heard the name of the village Rovaniemi, the story goes this is home to everyone's beloved Santa Claus. Rovaniemi is situated in beautiful, arctic Lapland in Finland. Nothing can stop the thousands of visitors from travelling to this destination each year, not even freezing winter temperatures. It's important to know that Lapland is a region above the Arctic Circle that spans not only Finland, but also Norway, Sweden, and even parts of Russia.

Lapland | Laponia
freezing | lodowaty
to span | obejmować



Travel

Let's answer two questions: why is Lapland considered home to Santa Claus, and why is it worth visiting both in winter and in summer?

Santa's Lappish Origins

Lapland is known to have a shared folklore of Santa-like figures. One of them was the Yule Goat (which is what Santa is still called in Finland to this day) inspired by the Norse God Odin. People believe that the Yule Goat delivered presents on Midwinter's night. Sometime later, small creatures called Tonttu are supposed to have become Santa's elves.

In the 16th century, the story of St Nicholas was combined with the above-mentioned myths and the figure of Santa Claus as we know him today was born. Lapland was definitely a good location for Santa: cold and full of reindeer. At the beginning of the 20th century, the whole world was informed by the Finnish radio broadcaster Marcus Rautio that Santa's workshop had been discovered on Korvatunturi peak in Lapland on the border between Finland and Russia. Nowadays, no one has any doubts about Santa's place of abode. What can you do in Lapland in winter or in summer?

1 considered | uważany
worth doing sth | wart/y zrobienia czegoś
origins | pochodzenie, początki
above-mentioned | wyżej wspomniany
definitely | zdecydowanie
reindeer 'reɪndɪə(r) / 'reɪndr | renifer
broadcaster | spiker, prezenter
workshop | warsztat
discovered | odkryty
peak | szczyt
border | granica
nowadays | obecnie
doubt dąt | wątpliwość
abode | siedziba, miejsce zamieszkania

WINTER BUCKET LIST

Watching The Northern Lights

One of the most incredible experiences we can have when visiting Lapland is to observe the Northern Lights. These magnificent flashes of light are visible when large numbers of electrically charged particles (electrons) move in towards the Earth at high speed along its magnetic field and collide with higher air particles. The air then lights up in different colours, starting from green and blue, to yellow and even red, making the "light show" simply amazing. The best season to observe the Northern Lights is winter, from November to the beginning of April, and the best time is from 10 p.m. till midnight. Ideally the sky should be totally clear and the weather frosty. Watching them in the city won't be that spectacular, or might not be possible at all due to urban lighting. There are many travel agencies which offer northern light tours, so it's easy to sign up for one.

Visit a Reindeer Farm

For all of fans of reindeer, visiting a local farm is a superb way to have a closer look at these animals. You will get to know them better and learn about their lifestyle, history, and significance in the area. Farms provide the best amenities and a lot of space for the animals, as their welfare

is important. Reindeer are kept in Santa's official headquarters as well, so there's one more place you can see them in real life.

Visit Rovaniemi

If you don't like being bored, Rovaniemi is the perfect destination for you. The official Santa Claus Residence is open all year round, and attracts most visitors in Lapland who want to see Santa in his office, especially in winter. The Santa Village, as Rovaniemi is also called, offers a great number of attractions. You can send a letter or a postcard from Santa's post office, go for a sled ride in a husky park or visit Snowman World, which features an ice restaurant, ice bar and snow fun activities for the whole family.

bucket list 'bʌkɪt lɪst | pot. lista rzeczy, których chce się doświadczyć w ciągu życia
incredible in'kredəbl | niewiarygodny
visible 'vɪzəbl | widoczny

frosty | mroźny
due to sth | z powodu czegoś
urban | miejski
to sign up for sth | zapisać się na coś
superb | znakomity, doskonały
significance | znaczenie
to provide sth | dostarczać czegoś
amenities | udogodnienia
welfare | dobrobyt
headquarters | główna siedziba
to attract sb | przyciągać kogoś
sled ride | przejażdżka saniami

Did you know that...?

The top three European countries most frequently visited by tourists are France, Spain and Italy, all of them attracting over 50 million people each year. Finland, with its less than 10 million tourists annually, doesn't rank among the top ten countries, but the numbers are gradually on the increase.

less than | mniej niż
annually | corocznie
gradually 'grædʒuəli | stopniowo
to be on the increase | wzrastać, rosnąć



SUMMER BUCKET LIST

Freezing temperatures scare you off? No worries, summer in Lapland also offers a lot.

Nightless Night Experience

The Northern Lights in winter and in summer...nightless nights or the midnight sun are two names for the same phenomenon. How is that possible that the sun never sets, circling the sky above the horizon night and day? Lapland is north of the Arctic Circle, where extreme summers are specific to the area. The same thing happens south of the Antarctic Circle. At Finland's northernmost tip, the sun shines non-stop for more than 70 days in a row. In other words, locals can easily be sleep-deprived for more than two months.

The whole experience is truly magical, mainly for the different shades of the midnight sun. For example, the Golden Hour is the time when the sun is about to set, but it stays above the horizon and paints everything a burning orange colour. Eventually, there is a 'sunrise' around 4 am, when it slowly starts climbing up from the horizon.

What Can You Do During Nightless Nights?

Well, the possibilities are endless. Of course, you can just sleep, but in this case, curtains and blinds are a must-have. Those who want to focus on the beauty of the sun and spend some peaceful time can either sit outside and admire the views or rent a cottage for more comfort. Others prefer to use these extra hours and do activities such as different sports.

Midnight Sun Film Festival

People have been watching films under the midnight sun in Sodankylä since 1986, gathering for the love of the films and Lapland's beautiful nature. Movies are shown in four different locations. Having no differentiation between day and night means you're welcome to see a film any time, no matter if it's 3 am or 5 pm.

Wild Berries and Mushroom Picking Tours

Lapland is the world's largest contiguous area for picking organic berries and mushrooms.

As these can be freely picked in Finland's forests, there are plenty of tours organised between late July and early October for lovers of berries and mushrooms.

Outdoor Sports

The wilderness encourages people to do sports outside in Lapland: cycling, mountain biking, trekking or canoeing. Local projects and initiatives help tourists make the most of their stay and try out different activities in beautiful surroundings.

to scare sb off | odstraszać kogoś
phenomenon *fe'nomənən* / *fe'na:minən* | zjawisko
to set | zachodzić
to circle | krążyć
northernmost | najbardziej wysunięty na północ
tip | koniuszek, wierzchołek, punkt
in a row | pod rząd
in other words | innymi słowy
sleep-deprived | pozbawiony snu
to be about to do sth | być chwilę przed zrobieniem czegoś
eventually | w końcu, ostatecznie
sunrise | wschód słońca
to climb up | wspinąć się
blinds | żaluzje, rolety
must-have | konieczność
to focus on sth | skupiać się, koncentrować się na czymś
to rent a cottage | wynająć domek
to gather | gromadzić się
wild berry | dzika jagoda
contiguous *kən'tigjʊəs* | sąsiadujący
to pick sth | zbierać coś
outdoor | zewnętrzny, na powietrzu
to encourage sb to do sth | zachęcać kogoś do zrobienia czegoś
stay | pobyt
to try out sth | spróbować czegoś

Travel

A Unique Experience

It seems that regardless of the season you choose to visit Lapland, there's always something unique you can experience there. Reaching this region is not simple, though. Your journey usually starts in the capitals of either Norway, Sweden, Finland or Russia. From there tourists may

take a short flight, or a long journey by train. For instance, there's a train connection operated by the Santa Claus Express from Helsinki to Rovaniemi.

Whichever way visitors decide to travel, the chance is that they won't regret the time spent on the plane or train. Would you like to join the lucky ones who have already been to Lapland? ■

2 unique *ju'ni:k* | jedyny w swoim rodzaju
it seems that... | wygląda na to, że...
regardless of sth | bez względu na coś
either...or... | albo...albo...

3 to regret sth | żałować czegoś



Silent in the Night

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

English Matters looks at a carol which is known and loved by many – *Silent Night*.

Silent Night, or as the original title goes *Stille Nacht*, was composed and first performed in Austria in 1818. The words were written two years earlier by a young priest.

'Silent Night! Holy Night!'

The first line of the carol praises the night. Let's look at the word night in some more detail.

The night begins with the dusk and finishes with the crack of dawn. The word collocates with a variety of adjectives, such as moonlit, dark, starlit, sleepless, pitch-black, wild, warm as well as nouns, for example, night watch, night breeze, night table, night owl, goodnight kiss. Moreover, there are a lot of idiomatic phrases with the word night. 'An early night' describes a situation when someone is tired and goes to bed early. 'A hen night' is a party thrown for a woman who is about to get married. If we want to say goodnight to a child, we can say 'Night, night, sleep tight!'. If you have a night shift, it means that you work at night. 'To make a day/night of something'

means to devote the whole day/night to something. The phrase 'the morning after, the day before' is used humorously to talk about a night of drinking alcohol. 'Night' collocates with the preposition 'at' – at night. However, it is also grammatically correct to say – in the night, on the night of February 10, in the middle of the night, on Sunday night and last night.

0 carol | kolęda

1 performed | wykonany

priest | ksiądz

to praise sth **tə preɪz 'sʌmθɪŋ** | wychwalać coś
dusk **dʌsk** | zmrok, zmierzch

with the crack of dawn **wɪð ðə kræk əv dɔ:n**
| o świcie

variety | różnorodność

moonlit | oświetlony światłem księżyca

starlit | rozgwieżdżony

pitch-black | bardzo czarny

night owl | nocny marek

moreover | ponadto

hen night | wieczór panieński

to get married | wychodzić za mąż, żenić się

to sleep tight | mocno/dobrze spać

night shift | nocna zmiana

2 to devote sth to sth | poświęcić coś na coś
humorously **'hju:mərəslɪ** | żartobliwie
in the middle of the night | w środku nocy

Infant

A very small baby can be called an infant or a newborn. A slightly older child who learns to walk is called a toddler. Sweetheart or darling, sugar, sweetie are examples of terms of endearment used with reference to a child.

infant | noworodek

slightly | trochę

toddler | małe dziecko (na etapie nauki chodzenia)

endearment **ɪn'dɪəmənt / ɪn'dɪrmənt**
| czułe słowo/określenie

Pure, purer, the purest

The synonyms for 'pure' are unspoilt, innocent, clean, untouched. The opposite is impure and the noun is purity.

pure **pjʊə(r) / pjɔ:r** | czysty

unspoilt | dziewczyczka

innocent | niewinny

untouched | nietknięty

Who has sung *Silent Night*?



Michael Bublé



Kelly Clarkson



Mariah Carey



Andrea Bocelli



Frank Sinatra

Tender

The adjective 'tender' can be used with reference to food, for instance *tender meat*, as well as while talking about human body after *injury/rash*, for example *Is the skin still tender in this area?* It can also be used as a synonym for being *caring* and attentive, *subtle*. *Therefore*, it is correct to use the adjective 'tender' in all following sentences:

She gave me a tender look full of love and compassion.

I've never eaten such a tender steak. The skin around my eyes is extremely tender after the surgery.

injury | uszkodzenie

rash | wysypka

caring | troskliwy

subtle | subtelny, delikatny

therefore | dlatego

compassion | współczucie

surgery | operacja chirurgiczna

Radiant

Radiant can be a synonym for happy and bright, for example *Look at her radiant smile! She couldn't be any happier!*

radiant | 'reɪdiənt | rozpomieniony

'Shepherds quake at the sight!'

Shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep. The word 'shepherd' is pronounced in the following way /'sepə(r)d/. The verb 'to quake' means to shake and is pronounced as follows /kweɪk/, whereas a synonym for the word sight (/saɪt/) is, among other things, view.

shepherd | pasterz

to quake | drzeć, trząść się

at the sight | na (ten) widok

to take care of sb/sth | dbać o kogoś/coś

whereas | podczas gdy

Heaven versus haven

Both nouns 'heaven' and 'haven' refer to peaceful places. 'Heaven' is the name of a place in the sky where *according to various religious beliefs* the God/gods live, whereas 'haven' describes a place where people can feel safe and carefree, e.g. *a real haven for the homeless*.

heaven | niebiosa, niebo

haven | bezpieczna przystań, schronienie

according to sth | według czegoś

various | różnych

belief | wierzenie

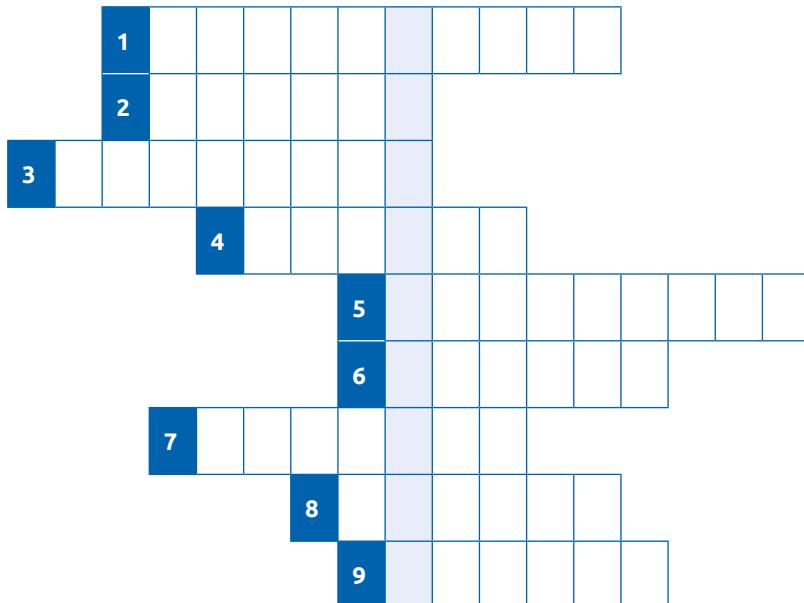
the homeless | bezdomni

What is your favourite carol or Christmas song? Is *Silent Night* among your favourites? Night, night, sleep tight, dear reader!

Rack Your Brain

by Katarzyna Szpotakowska

Fill in the crossword



1



2



3



4



5



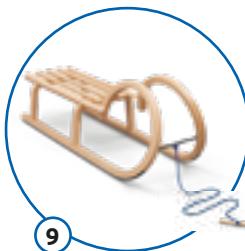
6



7



8



9

Choose the correct answer

a. Black Friday falls:

- in October
- in November
- in December

b. Christmas dinner is served in America:

- on Christmas Eve
- on Christmas Day
- on Boxing Day

c. A famous Christmas beverage made of eggs, milk, sugar, spices and alcohol is called:

- eggnog
- turducken
- booze

d. The Queen's Christmas Broadcast was first shown on TV in:

- 1955
- 1956
- 1957

e. A game of drawing someone's name in secret and buying a gift for this person is called:

- Santa's Secret
- Secret Santa
- Santa & Secrets

Christmas Eve | Wigilia

Boxing Day | drugi dzień Bożego

Narodzenia

beverage | *bevərɪdʒ* | napój

Answer key: (a) in November, (b) on Christmas Day, (c) eggnog, (d) 1957, (e) Secret Santa



Answer key: (a) tablecloth, wreath, reindeer, snowflake, snowman, turkey, bauble, sleigh

Find 10 words connected with Thanksgiving



Answer key: pilgrims, cornbread, turkey, autumn, parade, football, bargains, pumpkin, turducken, Thanksgiving

What is the name of the dessert presented in the picture?

dessert *dɪ'zɜ:t / dr'zɜ:t* | deser

Answer key: trifle

Odd one out. In each line, cross out one word that is not connected with Christmas.

mistletoe	sleigh	sword	midnight mass
spruce	<u>holly</u>	reindeer	remote control
candy cane	dishwasher	gingerbread	carolling
escalator	decorations	<u>herring</u>	Boxing Day
stockings	sunglasses	<u>wreath</u>	Christmas pudding

mistletoe *'mɪslətəʊ / 'mɪzltəʊ* | jemiołasword *sɔ:d / sɔ:rd* | miecz

holly | ostrokrzew

herring | śledź

wreath | świąteczny stroik



Answer key: (a) sword, (b) remote control, (c) dishwasher, (d) escalator, (e) sunglasses

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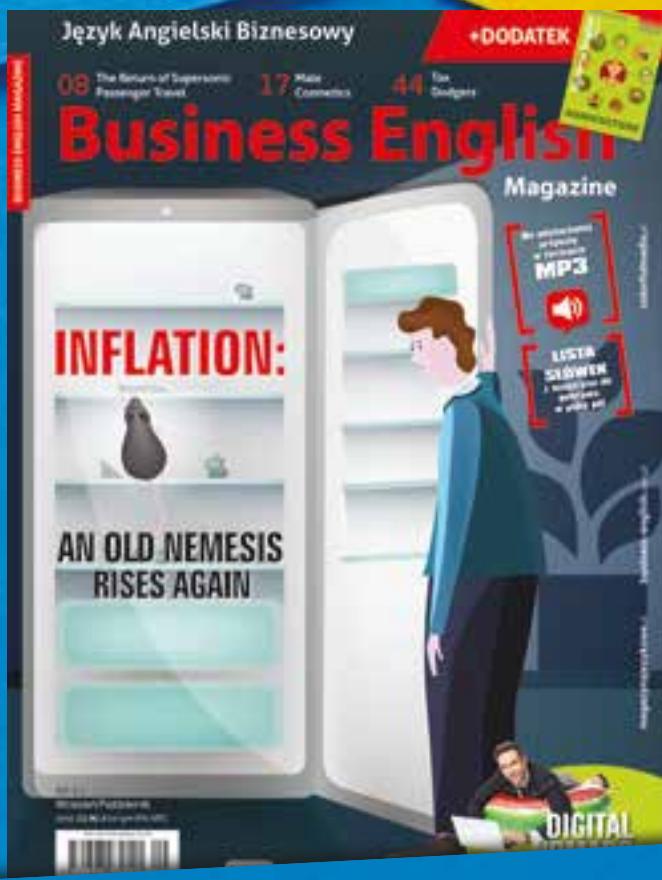


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