



Christmas

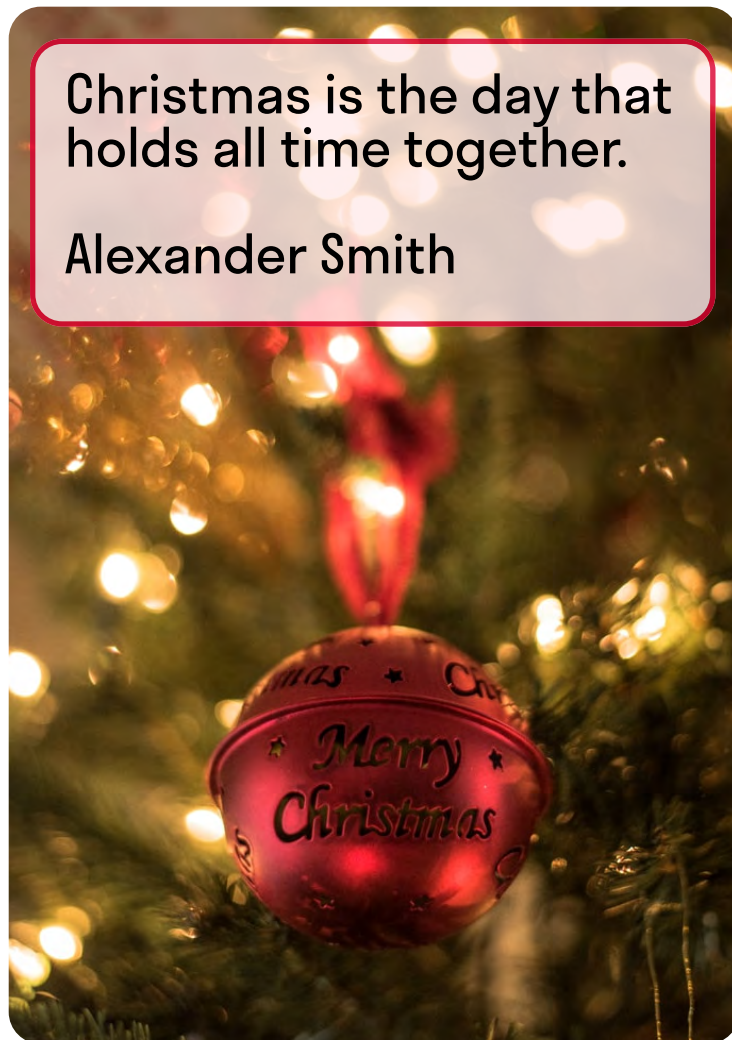
Upper-Intermediate level

Task 1: Warm-up

Read the quotes and comment on them. Do you agree or disagree with them? Explain your choice.

Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

Alexander Smith



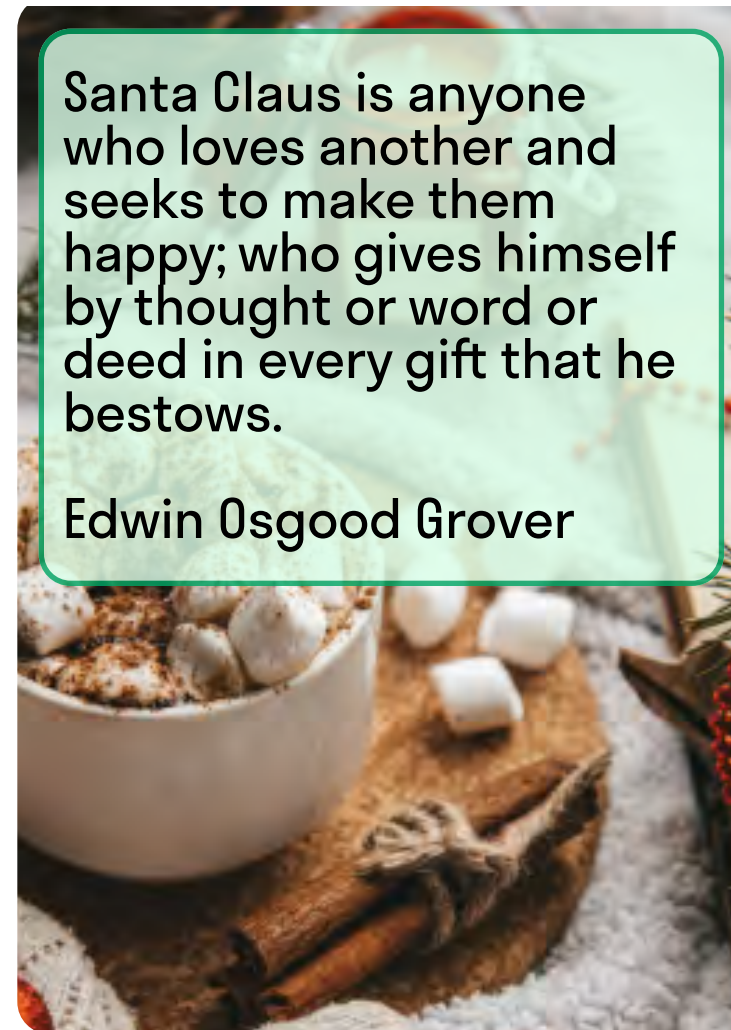
Christmas is the most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.

Ruth Carter Stapleton



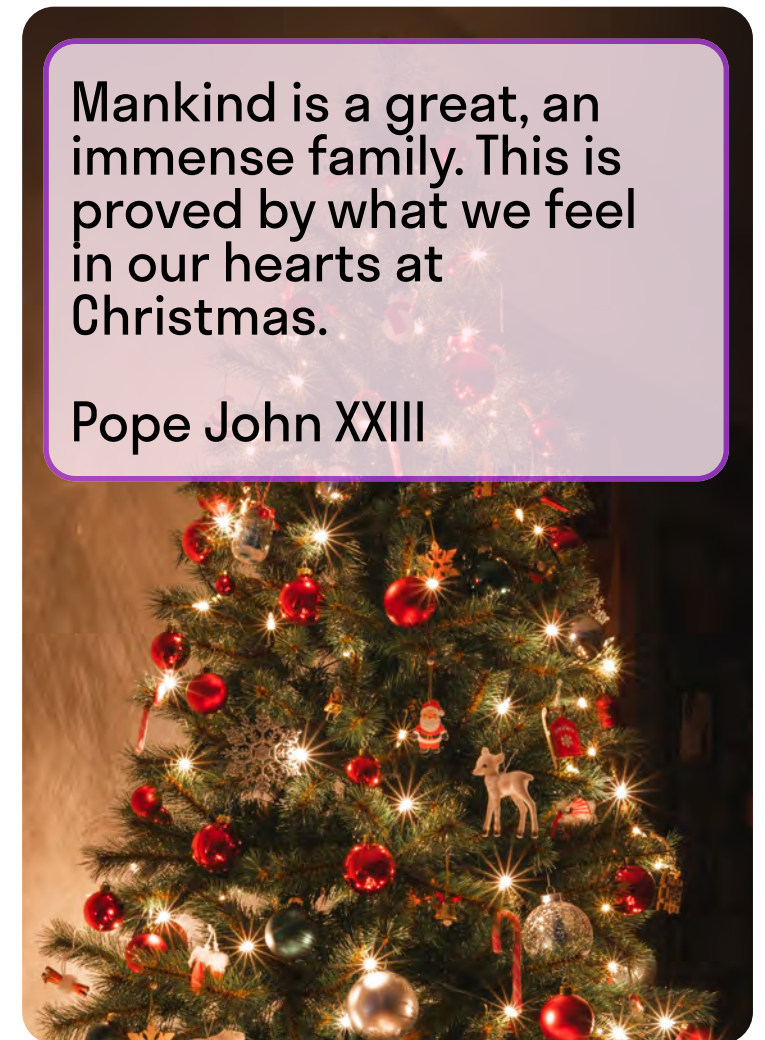
Santa Claus is anyone who loves another and seeks to make them happy; who gives himself by thought or word or deed in every gift that he bestows.

Edwin Osgood Grover



Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.

Pope John XXIII



Task 2: Lead-in

a) Discuss the questions.

1. What is Christmas about?
2. Name five components that make Christmas magical.
3. Do you prefer giving gifts to your friends, relatives or to strangers at Christmas?



Task 2: Lead-in

b) Watch the [video](#) and answer the questions.

1. What did the girl's mother buy for her?
2. Who did the girl give her present to and why?
3. What would you do if you were her?
4. Comment on the statement: "Christmas is less about opening presents and more about opening our hearts".



Task 3: Quiz

Take the [quiz](#) and check how well you know Christmas and its traditions.



What was new and surprising for you?

Task 4: Watching a video

Watch the [video](#) from 00:28 till 06:30 and match the words with the cities they are used.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Stockholm | a) Snowmobiling |
| 2. Tallinn | b) Neon colours |
| 3. Prague | c) Streets made of cobblestone |
| 4. Bath | d) Sausages and roasted chestnuts |
| 5. Wroclaw | e) Open air museum |
| 6. Vienna | f) Christmas carols, Charles Dickens |
| 7. Rovaniemi | g) Gamla stan market |



Task 5: Watching a video

Watch the [video](#) from 00:28 till 06:30 again, make some notes and speak about each city in detail.

1. Stockholm
2. Tallinn
3. Prague
4. Bath
5. Wroclaw
6. Vienna
7. Rovaniemi



Task 6: New vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Captivating | A. Exhausted as a result of longtime stress. |
| 2. Deck out | B. To talk with too much pride about what you have done or what you own. |
| 3. Boast | C. Express astonishment or surprise about something. |
| 4. Burnt out | D. Light in a transparent protective case. |
| 5. Marvel | E. Capturing interest as if by a spell. |
| 6. Lantern | F. The desire to have or do something that you know you should avoid. |
| 7. Temptation | G. Put on special clothes to appear particularly appealing and attractive. |

Task 7: Vocabulary practice

Finish the sentences with your own ideas.

1. One of the captivating cities I have ever seen ...
2. You will end up feeling burnt out if ...
3. A good example of temptation ...
4. A lantern can be used ...
5. We deck out our house with ...
6. My friend usually boasts that ...
7. She began to marvel at the world around her again ...



Task 8: Follow-up discussion

Discuss the questions using new words where possible.

1. Which Christmas traditions do you find most unusual? Would you like to try any?
2. Do you put up a Christmas tree? If so, when do you normally take it down?
3. Is it better to use a plastic tree or a natural tree? Why?
4. Which city would you like to visit for Christmas and New Year? Explain your choice.
5. What kind of activities do you think you could do in Santa's village?
6. Check out their [website](#) and say what you'd like to do.





Keys

Task 4

1 – g, 2 – e, 3 – c, 4 – f, 5 – b, 6 – d, 7 – a

Task 5

1 – E, 2 – G, 3 – B, 4 – A, 5 – C, 6 – D, 7 – F