

Christmas in Europe

Intermediate

Task 1. Warm-up

Discuss the questions:

- 1.** What can create a Christmas mood for you?
- 2.** How important are Christmas songs for you? What's your favourite one?



Task 1. Warm-up

Let's listen to a Christmas song (till 01:42) and choose the option that best describes what it is about.

All she wants for Christmas is:

1. her baby come home.
2. no wars in Europe.
3. Lots of things not connected with herself but with the whole world in need.
4. eternal peace.
5. you.



Task 2. Discussion

Discuss the questions in pairs.

1. Do you celebrate Christmas? If so, when and how?
2. Do people behave differently during Christmas? What can they do to make things better at Christmas?
3. The singer sings about her grownup Christmas list. Have your Christmas wishes changed over time? If so, how?
4. What is important for you about Christmas celebration - the place or the people? Explain your choice.
5. Have you ever been abroad at Christmas? If so, where? If not, would you like to celebrate this Christmas abroad?



Task 3.

Christmas trees symbolize Christmas festivities thus creating an atmosphere filled with miracles. Here is the list of the most stunning Christmas trees in Europe. Look at the pictures and choose the one you like most. Explain your choice.



Vilnius



Strasbourg



Prague



Basel

Task 4. New Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions.

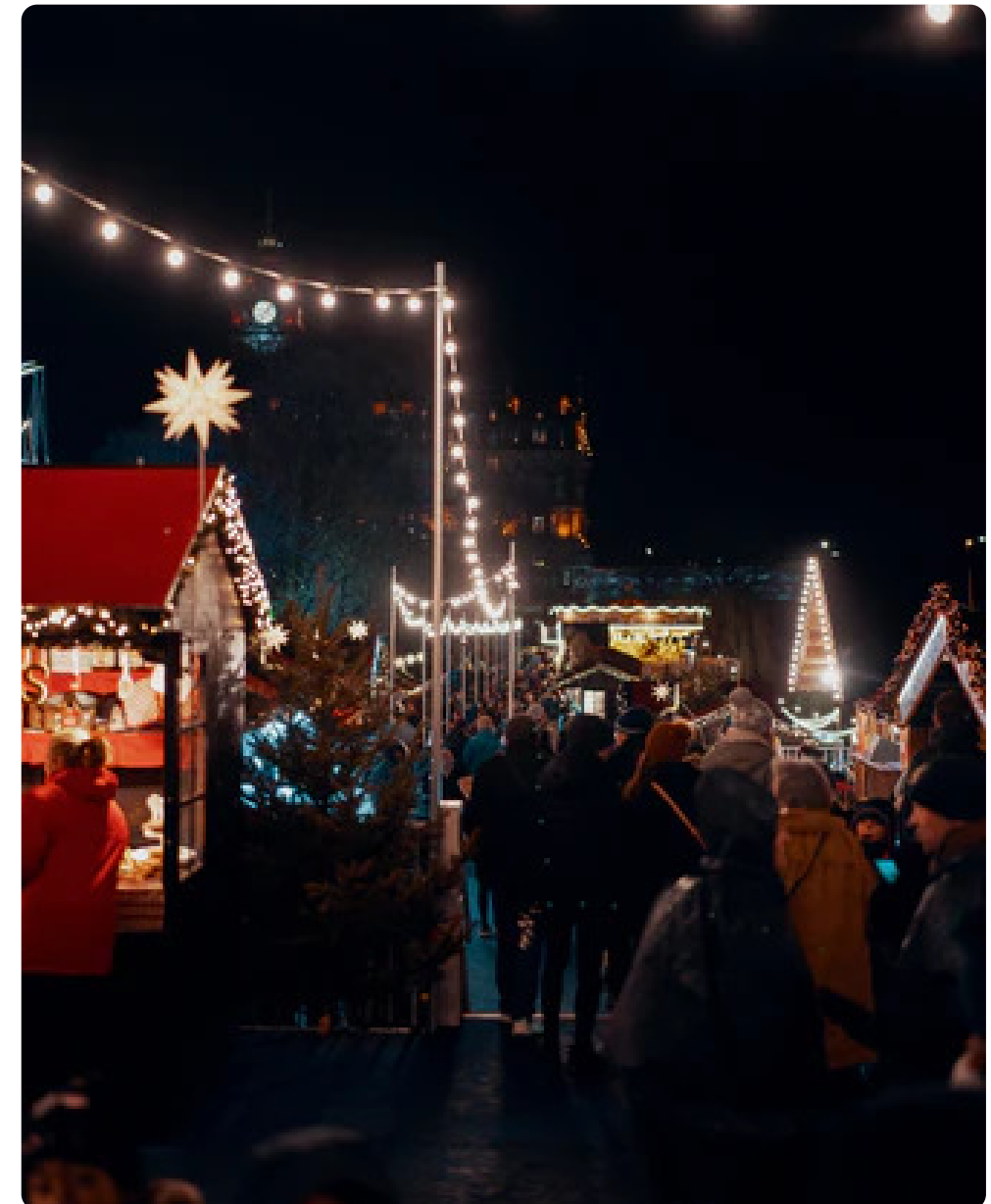
1. to deck out
2. an ornament
3. glow
4. vendor
5. resist
6. buzz
7. savory
8. run



- A. Be noisy with activity
- B. A person or company offering something for sale, especially a trader in the street.
- C. Put on special clothes to appear particularly appealing and attractive
- D. Continue
- E. To stop yourself from doing something that you would very much like to do.
- F. A small attractive object used to decorate the Christmas tree.
- G. An appearance of reflected light.
- H. Pleasing to the sense of taste.

Task 5. Watching the video

Watch the [video](#) about the best Christmas markets in Europe.
Which city attracts you the most? Why?



Task 6. Watching the video

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

1. Where is one of the most amazing Christmas markets of Budapest situated? What is special about this place?
2. What food is usually served at Christmas markets in Budapest?
3. What is the great Market Hall decked out for?
4. How does Vienna look at Christmas?
5. What can you find at the Christmas market on Rathausplatz in Vienna?
6. Why is it recommended to make a stop at cafe Simone?
7. What is special about Nuremberg?
8. What can you see at Christmas markets in Prague?

Task 7. Christmas 2020

Because of the pandemic most European countries didn't open Christmas markets in 2020. What do you think was different in 2020? If necessary, google it and fill in the columns with your own ideas.

E.g. Previously there had been lots of food served at Christmas markets. That year you could just bring some homemade hot chocolate with you and walk in the streets.

Christmas before the pandemic	Christmas in 2020

Task 8. Your Christmas 2021

Student A: Choose a topic and talk about it for 1 min.

Topic 1: Where (how/ who with) would you celebrate Christmas in Europe this year during lockdown?

Topic 2: Imagine there were no lockdown restrictions now. How (how/ who with) would you celebrate Christmas in Europe this year?

Student B: Listen to your partner. Would you join him/her for the trip? Would you change anything in the plan?



Extra: Playing a Christmas Taboo

Play Christmas taboo in pairs or in teams.

Rules: The player chooses a card and gives verbal clues to help his/her teammate guess the word at the top of the card within 30 seconds. He or she may not use any of the words or phrases listed on the card.



Keys

Task 1

3) c

Task 4

1. to deck out - C) Put on special clothes to appear particularly appealing and attractive
2. an ornament - F) A small attractive object used to decorate the Christmas tree.
3. glow - G) An appearance of reflected light.
4. vendor - B) A person or company offering something for sale, especially a trader in the street.
5. resist - E) To stop yourself from doing something that you would very much like to do.
6. buzz - A) Be noisy with activity
7. savory - H) Pleasing to the sense of taste.
8. run - D) continue

Task 6

1. It is situated in front of St. Stephen's cathedral. There is a giant Christmas tree in the centre surrounded by an ice skating rink.
2. Traditional Hungarian sausages and chimney cakes are usually served at Christmas markets.
3. It is decked out for the holidays and it is a great place to get a taste of the local culture - handmade wooden and ceramic ornaments, as well as other traditional textiles.
4. It looks even better with snowflakes in the warm glow of holiday lights.
5. Here you will find hundreds of vendors in front of the beautifully decorated city halls where a specialty of the Viennese Christmas markets are the very large glass ornaments. It may also be tough to resist the giant heart-shaped gingerbread cookies hanging from every market stock. You can also try some cool wine
6. They made gingerbread using recipes dating hundreds of years.
7. The Christmas market is buzzing with holiday cheer, the smell of grilled sausages and fresh-baked Christmas One of the best views of the Christmas market Nuremberg is from the Church of Our Lady.
8. There is a massive Christmas tree in the Old Town Square surrounded by small wooden huts. You will also find savory sausages on the grill and chimney cakes slowly spinning over hot coals.