

Christmas in the United Kingdom

In the UK (or Great Britain), families often celebrate Christmas together, so they can watch each other open their presents.

Most families have a Christmas tree in their house for Christmas. The decorating of the tree is usually a family occasion, with everyone helping. Holly, ivy and mistletoe are also sometimes used to decorate homes or other buildings.



Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas. Often a famous person switches them on. The most famous Christmas lights in the UK are in Oxford Street in London. Every year thousands of people go to watch the big 'switch on' around the beginning of November.

Father Christmas or Santa Claus leaves presents in stockings or pillow-cases. These are normally hung up by the fire or by a child's bed on Christmas Eve.

In the UK, the main Christmas meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day. It is normally roast turkey, roast vegetables and 'all the trimmings' which means vegetables like carrots, peas, stuffing and sometimes bacon and sausages. It is often served with cranberry sauce and bread sauce.

Dessert is often Christmas pudding. Mince pies and chocolates are often eaten as well! The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas cracker for each person and sometimes flowers and candles.

Now answer the questions below about how you celebrate Christmas.

1. How do you celebrate Christmas?

2. Do you have a Christmas tree in your house? _____

3. Describe below what a perfect Christmas tree looks like. What would you decorate the tree with? Try to be as creative as possible!
