



Christmas customs around the world



Warm-Up

- How did you spend last Christmas?
- Have you ever visited another country during Christmas? If yes, were the celebrations similar to ours?
- What are some common Christmas customs in your country?



Read the following emails from children who describe their previous Christmas.

My Christmas in Sweden

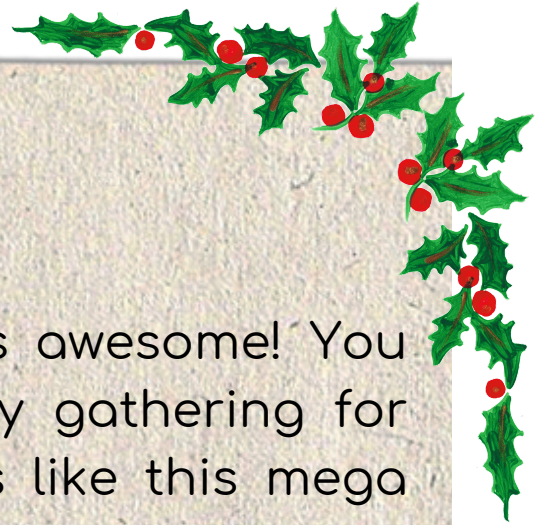
Hey there!

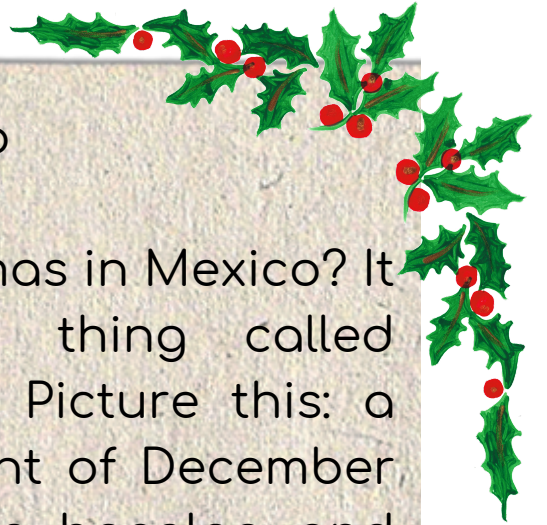
Last Christmas in Sweden was awesome! You know, we had this huge family gathering for something called "Julbord." It's like this mega buffet with all the yummy stuff you can imagine – cured salmon, meatballs, and oh, the Christmas ham! The table was like a winter wonderland, full of candles and sparkly decorations. My family and I stuffed ourselves silly. It's like a feast fit for a king! Oh, and we can't forget the Yule Goat – this cute straw goat that, believe it or not, brings gifts! It's like our very own Christmas superhero.

Anyway, my friends and I helped decorate the house. We even made our own little Yule Goat out of straw just for fun. And you know what? The best part was when we opened the gifts on Christmas morning. I got this cool gadget I'd been wanting forever! It was the best Christmas ever, and I can't wait for the next one!

Catch you later!

Jim





Nochebuena Adventures in Mexico

Hey,

Guess what happened last Christmas in Mexico? It was wild! We celebrated this thing called "Nochebuena" – the Good Night. Picture this: a massive family dinner on the night of December 24th. We chowed down on tamales, bacalao, and this amazing fruit punch called "ponche." Seriously, it's like a flavor explosion in your mouth. But here's the coolest part – the Posadas. It's like a Christmas journey where we go from house to house, singing carols and asking for a place to stay, just like Mary and Joseph. And of course, there's a smashing party at each stop with piñatas! We took turns bashing them until sweets and treats fell everywhere. It was like a candy blizzard.

Last year, I remember the Posadas vividly. While we were singing and having a blast, our neighbors joined in, and it turned into this huge street party. It felt like the whole neighborhood was one big, happy family.

So, that was my Christmas adventure in Mexico. Can't wait for the next one – it's gonna be epic!

Later,
Marco





Fill in the blanks using words from the texts above.

1. In Sweden, families gather to enjoy a grand Christmas _____ called Julbord.
2. The Yule Goat in Sweden is often made of _____ and brings gifts during the holiday season.
3. Nochebuena in Mexico is celebrated on the night of _____.
4. Traditional Mexican dishes for Nochebuena include tamales, bacalao, and _____.
5. The Posadas in Mexico reenact the search for a place to stay by _____ and _____.

Grammar Practice.

Past simple is used for:

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Past Continuous is used for:

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Fill in with the correct form of the verbs in the parenthesis.

1. Last Christmas, I(decorate) the Christmas tree while my family(prepare) dinner.
2. While we(celebrate) Nochebuena, our neighbors (sing) traditional carols outside.
3. The children(believe) that the Yule Goat (bring) gifts during the holiday season.
4. When the guests..... (arrive), we (finish) the Julbord preparations.
5. While Mary and Joseph (look) for a place to stay, people (go) from house to house during the Posadas.

Discussion

In pairs or small groups, discuss about your ideal Christmas celebration and keep notes. Consider the following:

Where would you celebrate?

What traditional dishes would you include in your Christmas dinner?

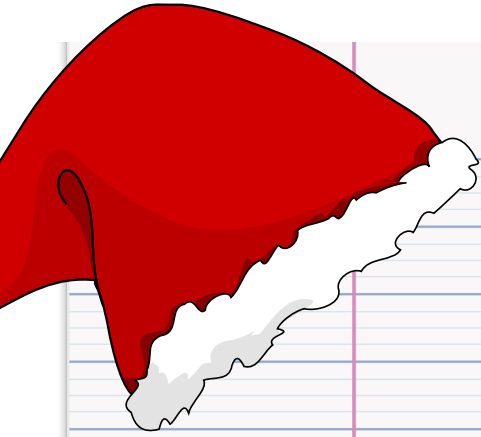
What customs or activities would be part of your celebration?

How would you decorate your home for Christmas?



Writing

Use your notes to write an email narrating to your epal how you celebrated the previous Christmas.



A large writing area consisting of a grid of horizontal blue lines and a vertical purple margin line on the left side.