



## Merry Christmas!

The warmest Christmas greetings  
Especially for you  
To hope you have a happy time  
That lasts all New Year through!

Christmas is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. It is the greatest holiday in Britain. Traditionally, Christmas festivities lasted 12 days. Yuletide begins in the middle of December and ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. All the children like this wonderful time because it is the time of much fun.

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| 1) This is the time<br>When children skate and ski<br>Play snowballs and dance<br>Round the Christmas tree | 2) Look! They've made a snowman<br>He is tall and fat.<br>He has a carrot for his nose<br>He has a funny hat.                                 |
| 3) The snow is falling<br>The wind is blowing<br>The ground is white<br>All day and all night              | 4) Snowflakes fall on trees and walk<br>Snowflakes fall as white as chalk<br>Snowflakes fall into my hand<br>Snowflakes brighten up our land. |

### Song "Let it snow"

For English children Christmas begins in October. They write Christmas list for Father Christmas. Here is one of them

Dear Santa!  
Merry Christmas! Can I have a truck, a horse and a bunk bed?  
Thank you! Merry Christmas!  
Patrick.

In the week before Christmas people make or buy Christmas cards and send them to their friends, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. Christmas cards were introduced in Britain in 1840. They showed religious scenes and often had religious texts in them. Nowadays they can have any picture on them, for example, winter view. Many children make their cards at school. The most popular wishes in these holiday cards are: Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!  
A Merry Christmas for me,

A Happy New year for you  
A Merry Christmas for everyone  
That's what I wish -I do.

Many years ago postmen had bright red coats. They looked like robins. At Christmas they brought many Christmas cards and people began to think about robin as a Christmas bird. You can see it on almost every Christmas card.

It's time for jolly greeting  
Snow and holly, overeating,  
Oh, I love you, merry Christmas  
You are the best of holidays

Christmas Eve is on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. On this day everybody is very busy and in a hurry. Offices close at 1 o'clock, but the shops stay open late. The windows of the shops are set with little angels, snowmen, deer and lots of Santa Clauses. Streets and buildings are decorated with fine garlands. Beautiful wreaths are put on the doors of the houses.

December is waiting and wanting and wishing  
And longing for Christmas Day

On Christmas Eve children hang their Christmas stockings on their beds or put them under the Christmas tree. A Christmas stocking is not a real stocking. It is big and beautifully decorated.

It's Christmas! Merry Christmas!  
Yes, it's merry, merry Christmas  
It's a time for hanging stockings  
It's time for riding sleighs.

Do you know why English people hang stockings on the fireplace?

Once upon a time a poor nobleman and his three daughters lived. The father was depressed as his daughters could not marry without dowries. One night after the daughters had washed out their clothes they hung their stockings over the fireplace to dry. That night Saint Nicholas

threw three coins down a chimney of the home of three poor sisters. Each of the coins landed inside separate stockings.

(3 daughters appear. They sing and dance)

1. This is the way

We tidy the room (3)

Every day in the morning

2. This is the way

We do ironing (3)

Every day in the morning

3. This is the way

We do the cooking (3)

Every day in the morning

4. This is the way

We sweep the floor (3)

Every day in the afternoon

5. This is the way

We wash our stockings (3)

Every day in the evening

6. This is the way

We dry our stockings (3)

Every day in the evening (girls put their stocking over the place)

7. This is the way

We sing and dance (3)

Every day at night

8. This is the way

We go to bed (3)  
Every day at night

In modern times the Christmas stocking is often used as a holder of small gifts for children. Children wait for Santa Claus and other miracles. Santa Claus puts presents into their stockings. (Santa appears and put some coins into their stockings)

Santa Claus lives in England

He is tall and fat

His cheeks are like roses

His nose is like a cherry

With a branch of green holly

And robins his friends

To all English children

Christmas wishes he sends.

Santa: Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Best wishes.

Song: “We wish you a Merry Christmas”

The original Santa Claus, St. Nicholas was born in Turkey in the fourth century. He was imprisoned and tortured. Constantine the emperor of Rome allowed Nicolas to go free. St. Nicholas loved children dearly and gave them presents. For many centuries he is their patron saint. The Dutch kept the legend of St. Nicholas alive. They spelled St. Nicholas as Sint Nikolaas, then as Sinterklaas and finally as Santa Claus. He looked like an ordinary person, but wearing a red cloak. In 1930's the Coca-Cola Company ran an advertisement showing Santa Claus the way we know him now; rather fat and jolly, with his red suit and long white whiskers.

We try to be as good as gold all month,  
So very good because we know  
Who's coming down the chimney –  
Jolly Santa Claus!

Santa Claus arrives at night from the North Pole on his flying sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. He climbs down the chimney and fills each stocking with present.

The joyous bells are ringing  
The Christmas season's here  
It's time to wish you happiness  
That lasts throughout the year.

Dialogue: "How old is Santa"

Bobby: -Mummy, mummy, I want to ask you how old is Santa and when is Santa's birthday?

Mother: -As I know, he was born in the year 603A.D in Italy.

-The reindeer that pull the sleigh are: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donna, Blitzen, and of course, Rudolph. And Rudolph almost always the lead reindeer thanks to his wonderful bright nose!

-How do the reindeer fly?

-When the reindeer eat magical oats and corn they become able to fly and leap high into the air.

-What does Santa do when a house does not have a chimney or there is a fire burning in the fireplace?

-Santa likes to keep a few things secret so he can always surprise the kids he is visiting – he uses a little magic but he always finds a way!

-Mummy, how does Santa know whether I have been naughty or nice?

-He maintains his naughty and nice list, with the help of all the elves who have a special way of keeping an eye on every kid.

-Why does Santa always bring me what I asked for?

-Thanks to the elves and your gift lists, Santa usually knows what presents you would like to receive?

-How can Santa sleigh around the world in one day?

-Through a combination of lots of practice and hard work and a little magic Santa and the reindeer always make it in time.

-Has Santa ever missed a year?

-No, Bobby, of course, not! Santa Claus hasn't missed a Christmas yet.

Mother: Listen! Santa is coming

Sleigh bells are near

Have a Happy Christmas

And a Happy New Year!

Song: "Jingle Bells"

Christmas would never been Christmas without its many wonderful traditions. Here is how a few of them began. Holly is an evergreen plant with sharp-pointed leaves and red berries. English people use holly to decorate their homes. It is a very old tradition. Long ago people began to put holly in their homes during the dark cold winters. They liked to look at holly and think about the spring and the sun.

Bring forth the holly

The box and the bay

Dick out our cottage

For glad Christmas Day.

Mistletoe is an evergreen plant with small leaves and small white berries. On Christmas Eve there is a bunch of the mistletoe in every house. Under this bunch boys kiss girls.

Boy: The rose is red

The violets are blue

Mistletoe is nice

So, are you?

Girl: It's such a treat

To love someone

So sweet (a boy kisses a girl)

Christmas is the time to remember others. On Christmas Eve people like to light candles, as symbols of everlasting life. The Irish place a candle in the window, inviting all travelers to

share the warmth within the house. If there are children in the family, they often have Christmas crackers. When you pull a cracker it makes a bang and inside there is usually a Christmas hat, a small toy and a piece of paper with a joke on it.

The winter tradition of decoration homes with evergreens began in ancient times. Branches of fir were thought to bring good luck and guarantee the return of spring.

Oh, what joy, what pleasure to see  
On Christmas Eve our Christmas tree  
When the lights shines bright  
In the dark evening night

The first Christmas tree was in Germany in 1521. It became fashionable in Britain in mid-nineteenth century when Prince Albert, homesick for his native Germany, imported a tree to his Windsor Castle.

Oh, Christmas tree! Oh, Christmas tree!  
How green are your sweet branches!  
You bloom not only when it's warm  
But also in winter storm.  
Oh, Christmas tree! Oh, Christmas tree!  
How sweet are your green branches!

The most famous tree in the UK donated each year by the Norwegians for use in Trafalgar Square, normally lit up on the first Thursday of December.

Oh, Christmas tree! Oh, Christmas tree!  
How we love to see you  
We'll make some trimmings just for you  
Of red and gold and green and blue  
Oh, Christmas tree! Oh, Christmas tree!  
How we love to see you.



In England parents often decorate the tree behind tightly shut doors. The children are not allowed to see the tree until Christmas Eve. Only on Christmas Eve the parents throw open the doors and children go rushing in to see the shining tree.

We have a fir-tree in the hall  
It is so beautiful and tall  
Around it we dance and play  
Because it is a Christmas Day.

It is winter, it is Christmas  
Look at our Christmas tree  
There are big balls, there are nice dolls  
Many candies you can see

There are flags and there are ribbons  
Little bells and bright stars, too  
Red and orange, green and yellow  
Pink and purple, violet and blue

Singing, dancing, merrily  
Round the Christmas tree  
Merrily, merrily, merrily  
Round the New Year tree.

Happy Christmas, my friends  
Happy Christmas today  
Let's dance hand in hand  
I will show you the way

Song: "Julie Tree"

Giving presents is a popular Christmas tradition. Children ask Santa Claus for presents. They write letters and describe in details what they wish. The letter is thrown into the fireplace. Smoke out of the chimney is thought to supply this letter right its purpose.

It is winter, it is cold

Father Frost is very old.

But he is always full of joy.

And glad to give me a nice toy.

Christmas is the merriest holiday of all

Make a cranberry rope, a popcorn ball,

Cookies to hang on the tree,

Hide presents in place where none can see.

#### Dialogue: "Christmas gifts"

Rita: -Hello, everyone. Today in our studio we have the most magical person in the world - Santa Claus! We've got a lot of questions and letters for you, Santa.

Santa: -Hey, hey. Hello, I'm glad to be here, in the studio.

-And the first question. Dennis from London asks you why you don't come every day of the year.

-Well, for a couple of reasons. First, I come on Christmas Eve to celebrate Christmas. Second, it takes a whole year to get everything ready for just one very special night.

-Santa, how many kids do you deliver presents to?

-I deliver presents to millions and millions of good children around the world.

-What is the most commonly asked for present?

-It depends on several things. First, it depends on who's asking. Whether it is a boy or a girl, how old they are, and lastly, where they live.

-Can you explain in details, please?

-Surely, for the girls, it's Barbie. And for the boys, it's a Play station. It seems like everyone wants Shrek or Harry Potter. Of course there are always the standards, new CD's, new cloth, and lots of other interesting things.

-Alice wants to ask Santa if you really need snow to make your Christmas deliveries.

-No, I don't need snow everywhere to make deliveries. After all I deliver to parts of Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and other areas that have no snow.

-We have a call from Bruce. He wants to know if you ever get the flu.

-Occasionally I get the flu, but I always take tablets to avoid getting sick. Even the flu wouldn't stop me from my Christmas deliveries.

-Thank you very much for your coming to our studio, Santa.

Song: "Happy New Year"

British people celebrate Christmas Day with big dinner. Children have much fun. They play under Christmas tree, find presents in their Christmas stockings, eat pudding. Christmas pudding was first made years ago. Now it is the highlight of Christmas dinner. Children often put holly on the pudding. Traditionally a coin is placed into the pudding. It brings good luck to a person who finds it. Mince pies are small round pies. Children like these pies very much. A turkey is a traditional Christmas bird. People eat it on Christmas Day.

Christmas is coming

The goose is getting fat

Please put a penny

In the old man's hat

If you haven't got a penny

A ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny,

God bless you!

A carol is a Christmas song. People often sing carols on Christmas Eve in the street or at home. The first carols came from France in the form of popular dance song.

Sing we all merrily

Christmas is here,

The day we love best

Of all days in the year

Sing we all merrily

Draw round the fire,

Sister and brother

Grandson and sire

Waits are a group of singers who sing carols. They sing carols in front of a Christmas tree. In small towns and villages waits often come and stand in front of the house and sing or play carols. They receive money for their singing and playing. They give the money to poor and old people.

Christmas

A beautiful time of the year

With carols and tinsel

And lots of good cheer,

With sharing and caring

And hearts drawing near-

Christmas...

A beautiful time of the year.

Christmas is the holiday of my soul. It is cold outside, and the sky is gloomy, but the flowers burst into bloom deep in my heart. Christmas is the victory of good over evil. Christmas is the time to forgive everyone who hurt you, to forgive and to forget. It is not very easy. But you should try. Just do it. That's what Christ does. This is main meaning of the spirit of Christmas. I wish you live with this spirit not only at Christmas time, but all during the year. God bless you, everyone!

May Christmas be bright with cheer,

Warm with friendliness?

And filled with happiness

For you and yours!