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Tom Tom English (Kinshicho)
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TOM TOM ENGLISH



VOCABULARY

Synthetic =

Not real,
manufactured, not
occurring in nature

Colleague =

Co-workers, people
who work with you,
people in the same
profession

Neighbours =

People who live near
you. (US spelling:
neighbors)

Retro Fashion =

Fashion that looks
back to a previous time

Discussion questions

1. Have you ever spent Christmas in England? Did you enjoy it? Why? Why not?
2. Do you do any of these things for Christmas in Japan? Which ones? Do you feel that they are Japanese or British customs?
3. What other things do you do at Christmas in Japan?
4. British people eat turkey on Christmas Day. Why do Japanese people eat chicken?
5. Does Japan have something similar to Christmas Number One?
6. Do you have a Christmas tree in your house? Why? Why not?
7. Will you buy Christmas presents? For whom?

VOCABULARY

Music Charts =

List of the best-selling
records in a week

Bet =

Place a wager, gamble

Christmas

Pudding =

A rich, fruity cake made
months in advance

Christmas

Cracker =

A brightly coloured tube
with a gift, joke, and
party hat inside

Christmas in the United Kingdom

Christmas can mean different things to different people. For many people it means eating a lot and spending time with family and visiting relatives and friends. For children it often means lots of presents!

Christmas Trees

At Christmas we cover trees (real ones or reusable **synthetic** trees) with shiny balls and flashing lights. Almost every family has a Christmas Tree in their house.

Cards and presents

Most people send Christmas cards to friends, family, **colleagues**, classmates and **neighbours** before Christmas Day. People send fewer cards than in the past. They now send Christmas greetings by email or via Facebook. We give gifts to remind us of the three wise men who gave gifts to baby Jesus. Recently popular presents for young people in the UK include smartphones, Playstations and 80's **retro fashion**.

Father Christmas (Santa Claus)

Every year small children tell Father Christmas what presents they want. They can write him letter or they can visit him in a department store in December. On Christmas Eve Father Christmas travels through the sky and delivers presents to children. He enters houses through the chimney

The Christmas number one

Every year, around Christmas time, the UK **music charts** are very exciting. Groups and singers make songs that they hope will be number one on Christmas Day. The Christmas number one single is always a best-seller and it is played on the radio a lot. People can **bet** money on which song will be number one.

Snow

Snow at Christmas is part of British culture. You often see it on Christmas cards. People can **bet** on whether it will snow or not on December 25th at **betting** shops around the country. But in fact, it usually doesn't snow on Christmas Day.

Turkey and crackers

Christmas dinner is usually eaten at midday or early afternoon. It's usually traditionally roast turkey, vegetables and potatoes. Dessert is a rich, fruity cake called **Christmas pudding**. It often contains a lot of brandy.

Traditionally a **Christmas cracker** is placed next to each person. When you pull the cracker with the person next to you, you hear a loud 'bang!' and a paper hat, a joke and a small gift fall from the cracker. You have to wear the hat, tell the joke to the other people at the table and keep the gift.