

## ABOUT US

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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** in the weeks leading up to December 25th. Christmas is traditionally a time for helping other people and giving money to charities. Many people send charity cards; where a percentage of the cost of each card goes to charity. People send fewer cards than in the past as 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 would like to receive. They can write him letter or they can visit him personally in a large department store in December. On the Christmas Eve Father Christmas travels through the sky and delivers presents to

children across Britain. He enters houses through the chimney

### **The Christmas number one**

Every year, around Christmas time, the UK **music charts** go mad. Groups and singers create songs that they hope will be number one on Christmas Day. The Christmas number one single is always a best-seller and is played on the radio a lot. People can even **bet** money to see which song will win the race.

### **Snow**

Snow at Christmas is part of British culture. You often see it on Christmas cards and you can buy fake snow to decorate your house. 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 traditionally includes 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** (see below) 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.