

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

### Task 1: WRITING

Write three things you usually do in your family at Christmas. Write full sentences.

### Task 2: READING

Read the text below about Christmas in the UK and put the paragraphs in order.

- A. Finally, everybody sits down together to play games, watch Christmas films or just spend time together. Many people also watch **the Queen's speech** on television or visit **the local graveyard** to remember **relatives**. By the time everyone goes to bed they are usually very happy, but also very tired...
- B. When the children wake up, they **rush downstairs** to open their presents. While they are playing with their toys, parents will usually begin cooking Christmas dinner. This is a big meal that traditionally includes **turkey, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce and Christmas pudding** – a special kind of dessert that is covered in brandy and **set on fire!**
- C. On **Christmas Eve**, everybody is very excited. Some people go to church for "**midnight mass**", but not everybody. Normally the children will **leave a treat for Santa and his reindeer** before they go to bed. This can include things like cookies and brandy, as well as carrots or milk for the animals. They also **hang up stockings** for him to **fill with presents**.
- D. Before that happens, though, **everybody pulls "crackers"**, a kind of **cardboard tube** with games, jokes and **a paper hat** inside. They also contain **a small explosive** which makes a "**crack!**" sound when they are pulled apart. The person who gets the biggest half wins.
- E. Once the children have gone to bed, Santa (also known as St. Nicholas or Father Christmas) visits each house and delivers presents. The presents are usually either put in a stocking or under the Christmas tree. **Naughty children** don't get any presents, but they might get **a piece of coal** if they're lucky!

### Task 3: VOCABULARY 1

What do you think the expressions in bold mean? Use the context to help you. Think about what type of word it is. Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

### Task 4: VOCABULARY 2

Now, mime one of the expressions in bold to the rest of the class, who have to guess what you have in mind.

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### Teachers' Notes

Here is the text in the right order. Read it to the students so that they can check if they were right, while also notice the correct pronunciation of the unknown words.

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When the children wake up, they **rush downstairs** to open their presents. While they are playing with their toys, parents will usually begin cooking Christmas dinner. This is a big meal that traditionally includes **turkey, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce and Christmas pudding** – a special kind of dessert that is covered in brandy and **set on fire!**

Before that happens, though, **everybody pulls "crackers"**, a kind of **cardboard tube** with games, jokes and **a paper hat** inside. They also contain **a small explosive** which makes **a "crack!" sound** when they are pulled apart. The person who gets the biggest half wins.

Finally, everybody sits down together to play games, watch Christmas films or just spend time together. Many people also watch **the Queen's speech** on television or visit **the local graveyard** to remember **relatives**. By the time everyone goes to bed they are usually very happy, but also very tired...

When working on vocabulary, encourage the students to work out the meaning of the words from context.