

## Christmas presents and decorations

### Topic

Christmas

### Learning outcomes

- Say words for common toys
- Recognise words related to Christmas
- Listen and understand the gist of a story or song about Santa and Christmas elves
- Use language related to doing a craft activity, e.g. Can I have some scissors, please?

### Age and level

5-8 (A1)

### Time

Approximately 60 minutes

### Materials

A selection from:

- Flashcards  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/flashcards/toys-flashcards>
- Word games: 'Christmas 1' and 'Christmas 2'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-1>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-2>
- Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'Santa's little helper'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/santas-little-helper>
- Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'The busy elf'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/the-busy-elf>

- Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'Santa, Santa, high in the sky'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/santa-santa-high-the-sky>
- Craft activity: 'Snowflake'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowflake>
- Craft activity: 'Snowman'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowman>
- Craft activity: 'Christmas tree'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/christmas-tree>
- Worksheets: 'Christmas'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/christmas>

## Introduction

In this lesson, children practise language related to Christmas presents and decorations. First, they practise words for common toys and popular words related to Christmas. Then they listen to a Christmas song or story about Santa and his elves – and Christmas presents! Finally, they develop their motor skills and have fun by making a Christmas decoration for the classroom, or to take home. Throughout this lesson, children will develop their listening and speaking skills.

## Procedure

### 1. Flashcards (10 mins)

**Before the lesson:** Download and cut out toy flashcards:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/flashcards/toys-flashcards>

**Tip:** If you need to set up as the learners arrive have a 'holding activity' to hand out to your learners. Give them a worksheet or an activity book task that they can do without help to give you a couple of minutes to get organised.

- Ideally have children sitting in a semicircle. If you can't move tables and chairs they could stand in a semicircle.
- Pretend through mime to pull toys out of a big sack. Show a flashcard and say: 'I've got a football/board game/doll ... etc', 'Do you like footballs/board games ...?'. Learners put their hands up if they like the toy.
- Now show the flashcards one by one, say the word and learners repeat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play a flashcard game. Hold up a card with the picture covered by the reverse side of another card. Expose just a corner and then expose the picture little by little. Encourage learners to guess what the picture shows (hands up). Give the card to the learner who guesses correctly. Collect in the cards by asking ‘Can I have a ____, please?’</li> <li>• Tell learners to ask you for a card using ‘Can I have a ____, please?’ Give out the cards if the question is asked correctly. Now learners take turns to ask classmates the same question.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Online game (5 mins)</b>	<p><b>Before the lesson:</b> Check and choose the word games you’d like to use:</p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-1">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-1</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-2">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/word-games/christmas-2</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play one of the Christmas word games, depending on the level of your class.</li> <li>• Play in teams or choose volunteers to come to the front and have a turn.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Song or story (10–15 mins)</b>	<p><b>Before the lesson:</b> Check and choose the song or story you’d like to use:</p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/santas-little-helper">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/santas-little-helper</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/the-busy-elf">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/the-busy-elf</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/santa-santa-high-the-sky">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/songs/santa-santa-high-the-sky</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you and your learners prefer a song or a story? Use either the ‘Santa’s little helper’ story, ‘The busy elf’ song or the ‘Santa, Santa, high in the sky’ song.</li> <li>• With the story, you can pause periodically and ask questions about it, e.g. ‘What’s Santa wearing?’, ‘How many reindeer are there?’, ‘What colour is the reindeer’s nose?’ and so on.</li> <li>• There’s a worksheet under the story to complete in class if time allows.</li> <li>• With the song, first play it all the way through. Do they like it? Play it again and use the pause button, asking learners to repeat after each line.</li> <li>• Play the song again and ask learners to join in with just the last words of each line.</li> <li>• Now divide the class into two groups, and each group sings alternate lines.</li> <li>• You can print the words for learners to take home and practise with their family.</li> </ul>

<b>4. Crafts (20–30 mins)</b>	<p><b>Before the lesson:</b> Choose either the snowflake, snowman or Christmas tree craft. Make it in advance.</p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowflake">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowflake</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowman">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/snowman</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/christmas-tree">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/crafts/christmas-tree</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show your learners the craft and ask them questions. ‘What colour is it?’, ‘Do you like it?’, ‘Would you like to make one?’, ‘What materials do we need?’</li> <li>• Revise vocabulary for doing craft activities, e.g. scissors, glue, colours, paper. Encourage learners to use English as much as possible when doing arts and crafts, e.g. ‘Can I have some glue, please?’, ‘What do I do next?’, ‘Can you help me?’, ‘I’ve finished!’</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip:</b> Give early finishers a worksheet to keep them on task. Here you could give them one of the ‘Christmas’ worksheets:</p> <p><a href="https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/christmas">https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/worksheets/christmas</a></p>
<b>5. Action game (5 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play a game of run and touch. Put the flashcards around the classroom, then give instructions ‘Run to the doll’, ‘Swim to the board game’, ‘Hop to the football’. Hectic, but fun!</li> </ul>

**Contributed by**

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