

Christmas vocab

Get into the seasonal spirit in December with a new word for every day before Christmas.

OLIVER PRITCHARD

ADVENT CALENDAR

A calendar that counts the days to Christmas. Every day has a treat – usually a chocolate or a picture. In this edition, it's a Christmas word for every day!



1

XMAS:

A short way to write Christmas. The X comes from the Greek word for Christ – Christos.



2

SANTA:

Another name for Father Christmas. Also Santa Claus.



3

JOLLY:

An adjective that means happy and friendly. Only for fat people, like Santa.

4

CAROLS:

Songs that people sing before Christmas. Similar to *villancicos* and usually for charity.

5

EGGNOG:

An alcoholic drink made with eggs and milk.



6

PRESENTS:

The best thing about Christmas, if you are materialistic. Family members give them to each other on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve depending on where you are from.



7

STOCKINGS:

Like very long socks. Children put them at the end of the bed, and Santa puts presents in the stockings. When the children wake up, they find presents galore!

8

BAUBLES:

These are shiny balls and toys that you put on the Christmas tree.



9

SLEIGH:

This is what Santa sits in when he travels around the world.



10

MULLED WINE:

A hot, spiced wine. The red wine is heated gently and flavoured with cinnamon, honey, brandy, oranges and cloves.



11

REINDEER:

The animals that pull Santa's sleigh. Watch out for the one with a red nose.



12

SECRET SANTA:

Much like *amigo secreto* in Colombia, but at Christmas time.

13

MISTLETOE:

A type of plant that is traditionally put over a door. If you stand under the mistletoe, other people have to kiss you. Sleazy types might put it over their genitals. Very humorous.



14

TINSEL:

This is shiny and long (about a metre or 150 cm) and used for decoration. It often goes around the Christmas tree.

15

CRACKERS:

In countries like the UK, Canada, Australia and Russia they are tubes containing small explosives, paper hats, bad jokes and gifts. The cracker is pulled by two people with a bang to release the toy and set off the explosion.

16

MANGER:

This is like a plate for horses or cows. Famously, Mary used it as a bed for the baby Jesus.

17

NATIVITY (SCENE):

This is the scene of Jesus being born and visited by the Wise Men. Like *pesebres* in Latin countries.



18

CHIMNEY/FIREPLACE:

The fireplace is where the fire is. The chimney is where the smoke is. Notice that in Spanish this is one word. In English, Santa comes down the chimney and out of the fireplace.



19

SHEPHERD:

A person who controls and looks after sheep.



20

BETLEHEM:

Belén in Spanish. Where Jesus was born.

21

PIGS IN BLANKETS:

Sausages with bacon on the outside. Very high in fat and salt, but delicious.



22

TURKEY:

Pavo in Spanish. In many countries, this is a traditional food to eat for Christmas dinner.



23

CHRISTMAS EVE:

It's the night before Christmas, when Santa comes and gives everyone presents – if they've been good! In many countries, including Colombia, this is when people exchange presents and mark their 'main' Christmas celebrations.

24

MERRY:

Fun and happy. We use to describe drunk people and Christmas - Merry Christmas



25