

## Topic 14                      Christmas

**Background:** Christmas is the biggest holiday time in the U.S. You may have already noticed this in the stores and advertisements that have appeared in the last month or two. Today we'll talk about this holiday.

1. What do you know about Christmas? (date it is celebrated, origin, how it is celebrated, etc.)
2. Is Christmas celebrated in your home country? If so, is it celebrated on December 25, or another day of the year? What is it called in your language?
3. Gift-giving is especially common at Christmas in the U.S. Is there a holiday that is especially known for gift-giving in your home country? Please explain.
4. Family gatherings are especially common at Christmas time. For which holidays are family gatherings common in your home country? Please explain.
5. Special foods are often associated with Christmas in the U.S. A Christmas meal may include turkey, chicken, duck, goose or ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, sweet potatoes, green vegetables, cranberry sauce, egg nog, nuts, fruits, fruit cake, pumpkin or another kind of pie, and other kinds of sweets. If your home country celebrates Christmas, what foods are often associated with Christmas?
6. If your home country does not celebrate Christmas, are there specific foods associated with any holiday? Please explain.
7. The Christmas holiday also has special music associated with it. Some families will make it a tradition to attend a performance of *The Messiah*, by G. F. Handel, or see "*The Nutcracker*" ballet performance. Churches and other community organizations will often host special Christmas music and holiday performances. Is there a holiday in your home country where specific music or other activity is associated with it's celebration? Please explain.

vocabulary: origin, gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, egg nog, fruit cake, sweets, The Messiah, The Nutcracker ballet