

# Cooking at Christmas

**1 Warm Up Work with a partner.**

- Do you eat special food on Christmas Day?

**2 Conversation Practice with a partner.**

**Scene: André is talking to Susan about Christmas Day**

- André** So, Susan, do you usually cook a traditional Christmas Dinner?  
**Susan** Absolutely! I spend most of Christmas Day in the kitchen!  
**André** What kind of things do you make?  
**Susan** Well, turkey is the main thing. But we also have roast potato, stuffing and vegetables. It's really good!  
**André** That sounds great! Does your family exchange presents after that?  
**Susan** We usually open presents in the morning. After the turkey, I fall asleep in front of the TV...



**3 Language Check Answer the questions**

- 1) Where does Susan spend most of Christmas Day?
- 2) What does she cook with the turkey?
- 3) When does her family exchange presents?
- 4) What does she do after that?

**4 About You Make true sentences about how you spend Christmas Day.**

- 1) Where do you usually spend Christmas Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What do you usually eat on Christmas Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Who cooks on Christmas Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) When do you exchange presents? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What else do you do on Christmas Day? \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Speaking Swap with a partner. Ask and answer the questions above.**

**6 Discussion Ask your partner these questions. Ask follow-up questions too!**

- Which is more important: Christmas or New Year? Why?
- Do you think Christmas is sometimes stressful?
- Do you like Christmas shopping? When do you start? Where do you go?
- Do you usually watch a lot of TV at Christmas? What else do you do?



# Cooking at Christmas: Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	Talking about routines (Present Simple)
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	Christmas (British English / Culture)
<b>Level:</b>	Elementary
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes (depending on discussion)
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

## Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet is ideal as a lesson to get your students asking and answering questions about Christmas routines. This is an American-English worksheet. The conversation gives one example of a Christmas Day routine. Yours may be different. You could extend the theme by getting students to ask you about how your family spends Christmas.

- 1 Give one worksheet to each student. Students should ask the opening question to their partner. Elicit a couple of answers from the group. This should be brief: the main discussion questions are at the end.
- 2 Students should read the conversation in pairs, changing roles at the end. You might need to pre-teach some of the vocabulary.

When the students read, encourage lots of intonation and eye contact.

Go through the conversation with the group. Answer any vocabulary questions.

Vocabulary Notes:      *Stuffing* is a seasoned mix of vegetables / breadcrumbs which is sometimes placed inside a turkey / chicken.

*Fall asleep in front of the TV* can be taught as a fixed phrase. It's easy to act out.

- 3 Students should follow the instructions on the worksheet. After completing the exercise, they should check in pairs. This can either be written, or done orally.
- 4 Tell the students to read through the questions first, and check they understand. Next, they should fill in the answers, writing full sentences. Monitor, and offer suggestions, where necessary.
- 5 Students should exchange worksheets with a partner. Assign the students 'A' and 'B'. Student B should turn the sheet over. Student A then reads the questions. Student B should answer, giving the same response as the one he/she wrote. Student A can check this.

## Additional Activity

When the students have practiced the questions and answers, they can have conversations similar to the dialogue in exercise two. Students can use the questions from exercise four.

You can assist your student by writing cues on the board. – e.g.      Where / Spend  
What / Eat

Encourage your students to respond to the answers. ('That sounds great / delicious' etc.)

Demonstrate with a confident student. Students can then move around the room, having conversations with as many classmates as possible.

- 6 Students should first read the questions silently. Answer any vocabulary questions. If you think your students can handle more complex discussion, write some additional questions on the board.

Place the students in new pairs, or groups of three. Monitor, but try not to interrupt. Make notes on any grammar / vocabulary / pronunciation points that need correcting later. Go through the errors with the entire group when the discussion draws to a close.

### Answer Key

- 3
- 1) Susan spends most of Christmas Day in the kitchen.
  - 2) She cooks roast potatoes, stuffing and vegetables.
  - 3) Her family exchanges presents in the morning.
  - 4) She falls asleep in front of the TV.

### Additional Ideas



Handouts Online has other Christmas-themed worksheets.

You can see the full list by going to [www.handoutsonline.com/christmas](http://www.handoutsonline.com/christmas).

We're always pleased to hear about how this lesson went for you. Contact us!

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