



## 1. Vocabulary: Christmas Themes (Advanced Level)

Match each word with its correct definition in the mixed-up chart.

Vocabulary Word	Definition
Yuletide	Generosity without expecting anything in return
To revel in	Relating to Christmas or the festive season
Secular traditions	Doubts or feelings of uncertainty
To splurge	Excessive spending on luxuries
Altruism	Avoiding unnecessary spending
Frugality	Non-religious customs and practices
Misgivings	Enjoy something deeply

Use the vocabulary words from Section 1 to fill in the gaps. Ask and answer the questions in small group.

- How do you celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ in your family or culture?
- What activities do you most like to \_\_\_\_\_ during the holiday season?
- Which \_\_\_\_\_ do you follow, if any?
- Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ on a Christmas gift? How did it feel?
- How do you practice \_\_\_\_\_ during the holidays?
- Do you have any \_\_\_\_\_ about the way Christmas is celebrated today?
- Can you share an example of \_\_\_\_\_ during the holiday season?



## 2. Reading: Giving and Receiving Gifts

### Giving Love

My dad used to hand-write specific, and often unrealistic, gift wish lists for his children to fulfill before every holiday. When I was in college, he asked me for a \$30,000 pontoon boat.

And so, for much of my life, I didn't particularly like the act of giving gifts. It felt dutiful.

But I've come around. Especially after I took a remote job — as a gifts editor, of all things! — I needed something to ground my relationships, despite the distance.

Gifting, I realized, is a tactile gesture of love and appreciation. It's an authentic connection point where no digital analog exists: Dropping a cheap heart in a group chat pales in comparison with almost any IRL offering

The act of selecting and giving a gift is really a vehicle for showing loved ones how you feel about them. It can be quite beautiful and moving.

*(Excerpt from The New York Times)*



Do you like giving and receiving gifts? Why or why not? Do you have a story, like the author, that can help explain where your perspective on gifting comes from?

How do you figure out what to give to your loved ones? If you consider yourself a great giftgiver, what advice do you have for others on how to pick the perfect present?

What is the best gift you have ever received? What is the best gift you have ever given? Tell us the story behind those presents and what made them so special.

What is on your holiday wish list this year? Is there a gift you are especially looking forward to giving?

"The act of selecting and giving a gift is really a vehicle for showing loved ones how you feel about them," the author writes. For you, are gifts an expression of love? Why or why not?

### 3. Speaking - Holiday Celebrations

Which type of Christmas celebration do you usually enjoy the most? Why?

Do you prefer spending the holiday at home with family or traveling? Explain your preference.

How important is creating memories during Christmas compared to the cost or effort involved?



#### Agreement

- I completely agree with you because...
- That's a valid point; I would add that...
- I couldn't agree more.
- You're absolutely right; in fact...
- I see exactly what you mean.

#### Partial Agreement

- I agree with you to some extent, but...
- I can see your point, yet...
- I agree in principle, but...

#### Disagreement

- I'm not sure I agree with that because...
- I'm afraid I disagree with you on this.
- I'm not convinced that...

#### Polite Ways to Introduce Disagreement

- With respect, I would suggest...
- I see it differently, and here's why...
- If I may, I'd like to offer an alternative viewpoint...

#### EXAM TASK:

Here are some factors that people take into consideration when planning a Christmas celebration. How important do you think these factors are?

- ☐ Cost and effort
- ☐ Opportunity for bonding or creating memories
- ☐ Cultural or personal significance
- ☐ Environmental or social impact
- ☐ Health and well-being



Speak about these factors, trying to explain your opinion and respond to your partner, using some of the expressions for Agreement / Disagreement.

**Then decide: Which factor is the least important when planning a Christmas celebration?**

# Answer Key

## Answer Key:

- Yuletide: Relating to Christmas or the festive season
- To revel in: Enjoy something deeply
- Secular traditions: Non-religious customs and practices
- To splurge: Excessive spending on luxuries
- Altruism: Generosity without expecting anything in return
- Frugality: Avoiding unnecessary spending
- Misgivings: Doubts or feelings of uncertainty

## Conversation Questions:

1. How do you celebrate **Yuletide** in your family or culture?
2. What activities do you most like to **revel in** during the holiday season?
3. Which **secular traditions** do you follow, if any?
4. Have you ever **splurged** on a Christmas gift? How did it feel?
5. How do you practice **frugality** during the holidays?
6. Do you have any **misgivings** about the way Christmas is celebrated today?
7. Can you share an example of **altruism** during the holiday season?