The Christmas Party

Starters: CambridgeMB

Pre-task: Before you read

A. Christmas words. Tick (✓) the things you can see at Christmas.

☐ tree ☐ pencil ☐ present ☐ candle ☐ cake ☐ bell ☐ bus ☐ bike

Tell your partner: At Christmas, there is a ... and there are ... .



B. Guess! The story is called The Christmas Party. Which words are in the story? Circle five words.

tree bus star bike present soup candle dog

Now read the story. Were you right?

Reading: Mia's Christmas Party

Read about Mia's Christmas party.

It is Christmas Eve. Today is Mia's family party. There is a big tree in the living room. It has a yellow star on the top. There are four presents under the tree. Mia has got a red hat. Her brother, Leo, has got a green scarf. Grandma is singing. Dad is making soup. There is a big cake on the table.

Task 1: Read the sentences. Write yes or no.

Example: There is a tree in the living room. yes

1. The star on the tree is red. _____
2. There are four presents under the tree. _____
3. Mia has got a red hat. _____
4. Leo has got a blue scarf. _____
5. Grandma is singing. _____



Task 2: Look at the letters. Write the words.

Example: k a c e → cake

1. t s a r → _____
2. r p s e n t e → _____
3. r e e t → _____
4. c l a n d e → _____
5. l b e l → _____



Task 3: Read and write one word

Look at the story in Task 1 again. Write one word.

Example: What is on the table? A cake.

1. What colour is the star?

_____

2. How many presents are under the tree?

_____

3. Who is singing? _____

4. What is Dad making?

_____

Draw and write

Draw your Christmas party in the box.

Think about: The people who are there, the activities they are doing, the food, and the decorations at the party.

	(People) _____ *is / are* at the party.
	(Activities) They are _____ _____
	(Food) They are eating _____
	(Decorations) *There are / There is* _____



Speaking (pairs): Ask your partner:

Who comes to your party?

What is your favourite Christmas food?

What activities are they doing at your Christmas party?

What decorations are at your Christmas party?

Christmas Bingo

Play in a group or with the whole class.

1. Choose nine words from the box. Write one word in each square.

tree **star** **present** **candle** **bell** **snowman** **hat** **scarf** **cake** **soup** **Santa** **snow**

2. Your teacher calls a word. If you have it, cross it out.

3. The first pupil to cross out all nine words (or a line of three) shouts "Bingo!"

Teacher's Guide: The Christmas Party (Starters)

Level: Pre-A1 Starters | Time: about 60 minutes (or two sessions of 30 minutes)

At a glance

• Aims: Pupils recognise and write simple Christmas words, read a short text, answer yes/no and one-word questions, and say simple sentences about a party.

• Language: There is / There are, has got, colours, numbers 1 to 5, and the present continuous in short chunks (Grandma is singing. Dad is making soup.).

• Vocabulary: tree, star, present, candle, bell, cake, soup, hat, scarf, snowman, Santa, snow.

• Materials: one worksheet per pupil, pencils and coloured pencils, flashcards or pictures of the 12 words, a small bag, and slips of paper with the 12 words for the bingo calls.

• Preparation: Print the worksheet on one side only, because pupils need space to draw in Task 4. Write the 12 bingo words on slips of paper and put them in the bag.

Lesson plan

Stage

Time

What happens

1. Warm-up

5 min

Show the flashcards one at a time. Say each word and the pupils repeat it. Then hide a card and let pupils guess which one is missing.

2. Pre-task: 10 min

Pre-task A: pupils tick what they can see at Christmas and tell a partner. Pre-task B: pupils circle the five words they think are in the story. Do not give the answers yet.

3. Task 1: 10 min

Read the story aloud twice. The first time pupils just listen, and the second time they follow with a finger. Check the predictions from Pre-task B. Do the example together, then pupils write yes or no on their own.

4. Task 2: 8 min

Write the example on the board and show how to unscramble it (find the first letter, then say the word aloud). Do item 1 together, then pupils work alone or in pairs.

5. Task 3: 7 min

Model the example. Remind pupils to look back at the story for each answer.

6. Task 4: 10 min

Pupils draw for about 5 minutes, then write the three sentences. Finish with the pair speaking questions.

7. Games: 10 min

Play Christmas Bingo.

Step-by-step notes

Warm-up and pre-task

• Use real objects or pictures where you can. Pupils at this level learn best when they can see and touch.

• Model the sentence frame before pupils use it: At Christmas, there is a tree and there are presents.

• If a pupil says "There is presents", simply repeat it correctly (There are presents) without stopping the activity.

• Keep the answers to Pre-task B until pupils have read the story. This gives them a reason to read.

Task 1: Yes or no?

• Reading aloud twice helps weaker readers. After the second reading, ask quick questions: Where is the star? What colour is Leo's scarf?

• Answers and evidence: 1 no (the star is yellow), 2 yes (four presents), 3 yes (red hat), 4 no (green scarf), 5 yes (Grandma is singing).

• Support: pupils underline the evidence in the story, or colour a quick sketch of the tree, hat and scarf.

Task 2: Look at the letters

• Teach one strategy: find the first letter, then look for the vowels, then say the word aloud.

• Check spelling carefully. Common slips are present (missing an e or n) and candle.

• Fast finishers can write each word in a sentence (I like the star.).

Task 3: Read and write one word

• Accept numerals for numbers (4 for four). Accept clearly recognisable spelling (yelow), and correct it gently.

• Remind pupils that each answer is in the story, so they should look back at the text.

Task 4: Draw and write

• Ask pupils to include at least three words from the word box in their drawing, and to label them if they can.

• Model the speaking exchange: What is your favourite Christmas food? My favourite Christmas food is cake.

• Praise effort and communication more than accuracy at this stage.

Games

• Christmas Bingo: Pupils choose nine words from the box. Call words from the bag. Show the flashcard as you call it for pupils who need extra support. Check the winner by calling back the words on their card.

Anticipated difficulties

• has got / have got: Pupils may say "Mia have got". Repeat the model sentence (Mia has got a red hat) and let pupils echo it.

• Plurals: Pupils may forget the -s in presents. Show four presents and count them aloud.

• Copying instead of writing: Seat stronger and weaker pupils together, and ask pupils to cover the word box before writing.

• Finishing at different speeds: Have an early-finisher task ready (see below).

Differentiation

• More support: Put a word bank on the board, do Task 2 in pairs, give the first letter of each answer in Task 2, and give pupils a choice of two words for each Task 3 answer.

• More challenge: Pupils write two or three extra sentences about their drawing (The tree is big. It has got a star.), or write five new yes/no sentences for a partner to answer.

Extension and homework

• Pupils draw and label a Christmas tree with five words.

• Display the party drawings on the wall as a class gallery.

• Homework: pupils teach a family member three of the Christmas words in English.

What to look for (assessment)

• ☐ Understands simple yes/no statements about a short text

• ☐ Spells at least four of the five Task 2 words correctly

• ☐ Answers with one word in Task 3

• ☐ Says a simple sentence about their party (My favourite Christmas food is …)

Cambridge Starters links

• Task 1 is similar to Reading and Writing Part 1 (yes/no statements).

• Task 2 is similar to the unscrambling-letters task.

• Task 3 is similar to the one-word answers task.

• Task 4 and the speaking questions build the simple, personal answers needed in the Starters Speaking test.

If you only have 30 minutes

Do Pre-task B, Task 1 and Task 2, then finish with Santa Says. Use Tasks 3 and 4 and Christmas Bingo in