



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Seiran English Journal - December 2025



Christmas Day

IS

DECEMBER

25

EVERY YEAR

Let's celebrate together!



Christmas Day and the day after, Boxing Day (Dec. 26th), are both public holidays in Australia, and many other countries too.



Public holiday (名): 祝日

The seasons are opposite in Australia, so Christmas is during the summer. School students have a six week summer break from the mid-December to February.



When Santa visits Australia, he
surfs at the beach!





People meet their families. They eat Christmas dinner together.

Gifts are put under the decorated Christmas tree. On Christmas Day, people give these gifts to their friends and family.



Decorated (形容): 装飾された





Sweet Breads
& Pastries



Eggnog



Christmas Cookies
& Gingerbread

CHRISTMAS FOODS



Christmas
Cake



Chocolate



Cinnamon
Spice Latte



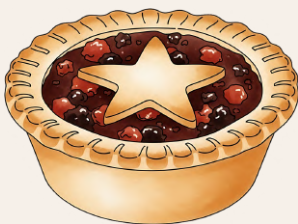
Roast Vegetables



Roast Turkey



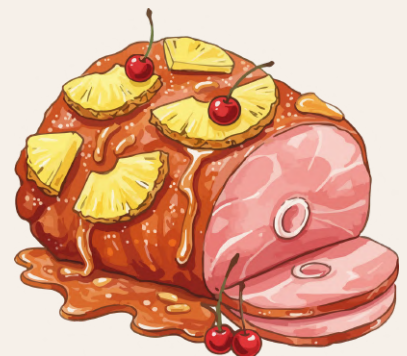
Stuffing



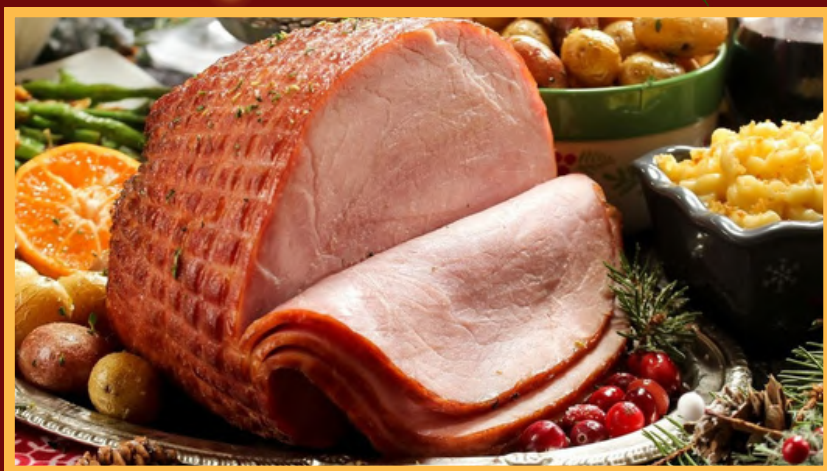
Fruit Mince Tart



Cranberry Sauce



Glazed Ham



Australia is hot during Christmas, so people eat cold foods, like salad, ham, and seafood.



Seafood (名): 魚介類



In Australia, British Christmas foods are popular too, such as Christmas fruit puddings and fruit mince tarts.



Pavlova is Australia's special Christmas desert. It is meringue with cream and fruit. People from New Zealand say they invented it, but you shouldn't listen to them.



Meringue (名): メレンゲ Invent (動): 発明する



Santa Claus comes
on Christmas Eve
(night of Dec. 24th).
He travels on a sleigh
pulled by reindeer.



He enters homes by
the chimney. Children
leave out milk and
cookies for him.

Sleigh (名): そり Reindeer (名): トナカイ
Chimney (名): 煙突





On Christmas Eve,
Santa delivers
presents to all the
good boys and
girls...



Coal (名): 石炭 Naughty (形容): やんちゃ

...and coal to the
naughty children.
Santa is helped by his
Elves.





People spend lots of time and money decorating their houses with Christmas lights.



And watch Christmas movies and animation.



MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS

By Mito

I want to recommend two Christmas songs! One is *All I Want for Christmas Is You*, by Mariah Carey. This song is so so popular! You can hear it in many different places at Christmas time. I often listen to it when I want to cheer me up.



The other song is *Silent* by SEKAI NO OWARI, a Japanese artist. It is a heartbreaking love song set during Christmas...

Please listen to these songs when you need someone to snuggle with you~.





In Sydney, we have Christmas festivals and markets, selling Christmas food, drinks, and decorations.

People sing Christmas carols and there are Christmas music performances.



Christmas carol (名): クリスマスキャロル, クリスマスソング
(通常は宗教的なもの)



Christmas markets
are most famous in
Germany, but
recently, you can
visit them in many
cities in Japan too!





Santa
Clause &
Reindeer

Bells



Cracker



Mistletoe & Holly



Presents



Candy
Cane

CHRISTMAS

THINGS



Christmas
Wreath



Stockings



Christmas Tree



Fireplace

Elf



Ornaments &
decorations

Santa's
Sleigh



Snowman

Bow



Christmas
Lights



Adults usually go
to their work's
end-of-year
Christmas party.



In Japan, Christmas is a time for couples in love, like a second Valentine's Day. It is seen as romantic.



Couple (名): 夫婦, 恋人たち



The New Year holiday is the time for meeting with family.



In Western countries, it is the opposite. Christmas is for your family...

...and New Years Eve is for friends, couples, and partying!



Western (形容): 西洋の



Bizarre Christmas traditions and folklore from around the world



Bizarre (形容): 奇妙な

Tradition (名): 伝統 Fólklóre (名): 民間伝承

Around the world, there are many strange Christmas traditions. In Austria and Hungary, Santa has a demonic counterpart: Krampus. Like Santa, Krampus carries a sack, but instead of giving presents, he takes naughty children, puts them in his sack, and takes them back to hell.



Demonic (形容): 悪魔のような Counterpart (名): 片方
Sack (名): 袋 Hell (名): 地獄



Iceland has strange Christmas folklore; in particular, a family of trolls and their children. Gryla is a woman troll who cooks naughty children in a large pot. Her pet, the Yule Cat, eats people who have not received new clothes by Christmas Day.

Troll (名): 北欧神話に登場する妖精や怪物



Pot (名): 鍋

Yule (名): 主に古代ヨーロッパのゲルマン民族やヴァイキングが行った冬至のお祭りを指し、現代では特に北欧諸国でクリスマス



Gryla's children are 13 mischievous boys, known as the Yule Lads. Each Yule Lad performs a specific prank on the 13 nights before Christmas Day. They do everything from stealing meat and pots, to licking spoons or slamming doors.

If children put their shoes on the window sill, the Yule Lads leave small gifts for good children, and rotten potatoes for naughty ones.



Mischievous (形容):
やんちゃ
Lad (名): 若者
Prank (名): いたずら
Lick (動): 舐める

Slam (動詞):
叩きつける
Window Sill (名):
窓枠
Rotten (形容): 腐った

In the town of Gavle, Sweden, the townspeople build a 3-story tall goat made from straw, rope, and wood. Strangely, there is also a tradition of townspeople trying to burn or destroy the goat. The people living there bet whether or not the goat will survive to the end of Christmas.

Townspeople (名): 町民 _Story tall (形容): 階建て Straw (名): 藁 Bet (動): 賭ける



All countries put up decorations for Christmas, but in Germany and Spain, there are special joke decorations. In Germany, on Christmas trees, there is usually a hidden pickle decoration.

In Spain, people buy small *caganer* ('pooper') figures, which hide amongst the other normal decorations. These can be very detailed, often looking like famous people.

Hidden (形容): 隠れた Hide (動): 隠れる Pickle (名): お新香 Detailed (形容): 詳しい



In Venezuela, people wear roller skates, and skate to church or around town each day leading up to Christmas. This is so popular that the government stops vehicles from using roads in the center of towns and cities.

Skate (動): スケートする Vehicle (名): 車両





In Wales, in the United Kingdom, there is another strange and frightening Christmas creature: Mari Lwyd, or gray mare. The Mari Lwyd is a group of people carrying a horse's skull on a stick, under a white sheet. .

They go from house to house, and ask to be entertained with songs, rhymes, and beer to drink.



Mare (名): 牝馬 Skull (名): 頭蓋骨
Entertain (動): 楽しませる Rhyme (名): 韻





In Latvia, people wear scary costumes and go from house to house, singing and performing. In return, they receive food and drinks. They are expected to stay disguised; if their identity is learned, they remove their costume and eat food with the family.



Expected to (動): 期待される Disguise (名): 変装 Identity (名): 身元



Witches are also surprisingly common in Christmas folklore. In Italy, La Befana is a kind witch who delivers presents to good children, like Santa Claus.

In Norway, witches fly around the night sky at Christmas, causing trouble. As such, people in Norway hide all their brooms, so witches cannot find and use them.



Surprisingly (副詞):
意外と

As such: そのような

Broom (名: ほうき)



Japan has its own strange Christmas tradition. In 1974, a marketing campaign for KFC claimed that in Western countries, for Christmas, people ate fried chicken. This was a lie; people eat roast turkey or ham. However, every year, millions of Japanese people will order special Christmas set meals from KFC. And KFC mascot Colonel Sanders will be dressed as Santa Claus.

Marketing campaign (名): マーケティングキャンペーン
Claim (動): 主張する Be dressed as (動): のような服装をする





Tamari Town
Christmas
Market
新都心, 埼玉



There are many places near Ota
where you can enjoy Christmas!



Takasaki Pageant
of Starlight
高崎, 群馬

Metsa Village Nordic
Moomin Christmas
飯能, 埼玉





Ashikaga Flower Park
Christmas Illumination
足利, 栃木



Yokohama Red Brick
Warehouse Christmas
Market
横浜, 神奈川

Roppongi Hills
Christmas Markets
六本木, 東京



Tokyo Midtown
Christmas Illumination
港区, 東京





Tokyo Christmas Market: Meiji
Jingu Gaien & Shiba Park
新宿 + 港区, 東京



Azabudai Hills
Christmas Markets
港区, 東京



KAGAMI-MOCHI

A Japanese New Year Tradition

By Ayumi

I want to introduce the winter tradition of kagami-mochi. The custom of offering kagami-mochi is said to have begun in the Muromachi period (1336 - 1573). On January 11th, we perform the kagami-biraki - a ceremony where the kagami-mochi is offered.

The kagami-mochi is broken apart and eaten while praying for good health and the absence of illness. It is not cut up using a knife; it is considered unlucky to point a blade at an offering. It is opened with a wooden hammer instead. The important thing is for everyone in the house to eat it, and not throw it away.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2026





WE WISH YOU A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR



From James & English Speaking Society

