

# *The English Pages*

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## *Editorial*

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*I got a task to write about those Christmas which last few years start in October. Finally, autumn came and nowadays, it obviously means CHRISTMAS ARE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, WOO, LET'S PUT UP SOME ADS! Okay, like I'm glad the winter time is coming but few weeks ago we all were hanging out in shorts a t-shirts. Just calm down, people! BUT, now the Christmas time is really here so probably I should stop with that criticism mood. And you know what? All of us should do that. If you have already started, it's great. Because after all, Christmas is seriously here and everyone knows that it's a time of love and joy and happiness. So, let's do a challenge. Try to look with a smile on your face on this upside-down world. And believe me, the reward will be incredible..;)*

*Hannah, II.A*



*The Zlate Moravce fountain in winter time*

## *What do we really celebrate?*

**by Barbora Remenárová, II.A**

Everybody's waiting. For what? For that time of LOVE, PEACE and GOODNESS.

All of these years people around the world have celebrated Christmas. December 25th is the day when we remember the birth of Jesus, we use to go to church, invite lonely people to take a dinner with you on Christmas Eve and we are a little bit more happy, smiling and kind. That's the true magic of this season! Of course, Christmas season includes other nice traditions too. I mean, singing X-mas songs, buying gifts for your friend or family, or trimming Christmas tree are the things that make us everybody tuned for Christmas.

Why do we celebrate these days? Just over two thousand years ago Jesus Christ was born in Betlehem. In the past, people thought that December 25th was exactly the day of Jesus birth, but now we know some historical sources were false, so we only know his birth was in cold dark night.

Nowadays, Christmas time isn't only a season for Christians, but also millions and milions other people who celebrate this wonderful event. What I find very adorable at this time is that all of us wants to be happy and peaceful more than the fact that we want to get massive gifts.

Merry X-mas!

## *Christmas Eve in Slovakia*

*by Mgr. Marianna Vavrová*

**W**ho wouldn't love Christmas? This article is bringing you a deeper insight into the Christmas traditions in Slovakia.

*Slovaks celebrate Christmas Eve by decorating the Christmas tree and sitting down to a Christmas Eve feast. The breaking and sharing of wafers precedes dinner. Christmas carp, along with other traditional Slovak foods, are served during the Christmas Eve dinner.*

*Ježiško, Baby Jesus, brings presents to children and places them under the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The counterpart to Santa Claus in Slovakia is Father Frost, or Dedo Mráz. But St. Mikulas can also visit children on St. Nicholas' Day on December 5.*

*Midnight mass may be attended the night of Christmas Eve and the family will spend the next two days together.*

**Vocabulary:** Christmas Eve – Štedrý večer (Eve – predvečer); feast – hody, hostina; breaking and sharing of wafers – lámanie a delenie si oblátok, to precede – predchádzať; carp – kapor; counterpart – náprotivok, kolega; midnight mass – polnočná omša; to attend - navštevovať; scales – šupiny;



*The traditional Slovak gingerbread (Source of the photo: Internet)*

## Traditions

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### Lucky foods

- **Fish**, especially those with silver scales, are thought to symbolize money.
- **Greens**, usually **cabbage**, are associated with money and, thus, thought to bring good fortune. Eating cabbage probably worked its way into New Year lore because it is a late fall crop and the best way to preserve it for the winter was by turning it into sauerkraut. Brining cabbage typically takes six to eight weeks, and would be perfect to eat around New Year. **Sauerkraut's** long strands also symbolize long life.
- **Lentils and peas** also symbolize money as their appearance resembles coins that swell when cooked.
- **Poppy seeds** are considered a lucky food, so you will find them throughout the cuisine and especially on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- **Pork's** rich fat content symbolizes wealth and prosperity.
- **Ring-shaped foods**, like **cookies, doughnuts and bagels**, symbolize the year coming full circle and represent eternity.

**Vocabulary:** scales – šupiny; to be associated with – byť spojený s; thus – tak, preto; fortune – majetok, šťastie; lore – ľudová tradícia; fall crop – jesenná úroda; to brine – konzervovať soľou (brining – konzervovanie soľou); sauerkraut – kyslá kapusta; strand – vlákno; lentil – šošovica; appearance – vzhľad; to resemble – pripomínať, podobať sa; coins – mince; swell – napuchnúť; poppy seeds – mak; cuisine – kuchyňa; pork – bravčovina; fat content – obsah tuku; wealth – bohatstvo; ring-shaped – okrúhly; circle – kruh; eternity – večnosť

### What not to eat

- **Lobster and crab** are considered bad luck because they move backwards and could lead to setbacks.
- **Chicken** is also a no-no because they scratch backward, and eating any **winged fowl** is disadvised because this could portend one's good luck flying away

**Vocabulary:** lobster – morský rak, homár; bad luck – smola; backwards – pospiatky, dozadu; setback – nezdar, neúspech; scratch – škrabať sa; a winged fowl – okřídlená hydina; to disadvice – neodporúčať, odradzovať; portend – hroziť, predpovedať

Source: [www.about.com](http://www.about.com)

# Christmas vocabulary

<b>Advent</b>	<i>the coming (or second coming) of Jesus Christ; the month leading up to Christmas</i>
<b>angel</b>	<i>a spiritual being acting as a messenger of God (usually shown as a human being with wings)</i>
<b>Bethlehem</b>	<i>the small town in the Middle East believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ</i>
<b>candle</b>	<i>a cylinder of wax with a central wick (like string) which burns to produce light</i>
<b>Christ</b>	<i>the title of Jesus (also used as His name)</i>
<b>Christian</b>	<i>a person who believes in Christianity; also an adjective</i>
<b>Christianity</b>	<i>the religion based on the teachings and person of Jesus Christ</i>
<b>Christmas</b>	<i>the annual Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ (Christmas Day is on 25 December)</i>
<b>Christmas carol</b>	<i>a religious song or popular hymn that people sing at Christmas</i>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<i>25 December, the birthday of Jesus Christ</i>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<i>the evening or day before Christmas Day (24 December)</i>
<b>Christmas tree</b>	<i>an evergreen tree (often a spruce) that people decorate with lights and ornaments at Christmas</i>
<b>cracker</b>	<i>a decorated paper tube that makes a sharp noise ("crack!") and releases a small toy when two people pull it apart</i>
<b>decoration</b>	<i>something that adds beauty; ornament</i>
<b>egg-nog</b>	<i>a traditional Christmas drink made of alcohol with beaten eggs and milk</i>
<b>frankincense</b>	<i>a gum used for incense, one of the gifts that the three wise men gave to Jesus</i>

<b>gold</b>	<i>a yellow precious metal, one of the gifts that the three wise men gave to Jesus</i>
<b>holly</b>	<i>an evergreen plant with prickly dark green leaves and red berries</i>
<b>magi</b>	<i>the wise men from the East who brought gifts for the baby Jesus</i>
<b>manger</b>	<i>a trough for food for horses or cattle (used by Mary as a cradle or bed for Jesus)</i>
<b>mistletoe</b>	<i>a parasitic plant with white berries, traditionally used as a Christmas decoration</i>
<b>myrrh</b>	<i>a gum used for perfume or incense, one of the gifts that the three wise men gave to Jesus</i>
<b>nativity</b>	<i>the birth of a person</i>
<b>the Nativity</b>	<i>the birth of Jesus Christ</i>
<b>New Year's Day</b>	<i>1 January</i>
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<i>31 December</i>
<b>ornament</b>	<i>an object that adds beauty to something; a decoration</i>
<b>shepherd</b>	<i>a person who looks after sheep</i>
<b>sleigh</b>	<i>a sledge or light cart on runners pulled by horses or reindeer over snow and ice</i>
<b>the star of Bethlehem</b>	<i>the star that announced the birth of Jesus and guided the wise men to find Him</i>
<b>turkey</b>	<i>a bird like a large chicken, traditionally eaten at Christmas</i>
<b>Xmas</b>	<i>abbreviation or informal term for Christmas</i>

Source: [www.theenglishclub.com](http://www.theenglishclub.com)

*What to wish when writing a Christmas card*

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*Merry Christmas!*

*Happy Christmas!*

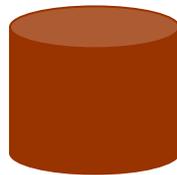
*Happy New Year!*

*Seasons Greetings!*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Wishing you a prosperous New Year!*

*All the best for the coming year!*



## Film

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### Who wrote the script to *Mrázik*?



The better we know the entertaining dialogues from the film version of this Russian fairy-tale, the less information we have about its author.

*Nikolai Erdman, a Russian dramatist and screenwriter, was born in 1900 and passed away in 1970. He showed his talents for literature in his early childhood – he wrote poems, later he belonged to the group of Imaginists /Russian poets who wrote suggestive poetry/.*

*After World War II, the young enthusiastic dramatist started to cooperate with the Vsevolod Mejerchold's Theatre- master of Russian interwar Avant-garde.*

*He wrote plays against pressure of the period just in time, when Stalin was strengthening his power.*

*In 1933 Stalin sent Erdman into exile to Siberia. Since then, he had never written any fable or political satire. After his return from Siberia, he was banned to enter Moscow.*

*In 1942 the banto enter Moscow was cancelled. He started to write scripts for the films, among others, he wrote script to Jack Frost (Mrázik). Irony is that one of the movie "Brave People" he wrote the script for together with Michail Volpin, won Stalin's award.*

*In 1964, he became an informal member of the art council of the Avant-garde Moscow Theatre "Taganka". There he met Vladimir Vysocky, a singer of resistance of millions of Soviet citizens against the soviet power. He became one of his closest friends.*

*In 1970 Erdman died.*

**Translated by Simona Turčanová, IV.B** (Adapted from the book "Ruské dilema – Společenské zlo v kontextu osudů tvůrčích osobností Ruska" by Ivana Ryčlová)

## Questionnaire

### Christmas presents

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ but is it really so? Don't we exaggerate our generosity when we buy presents for our relatives? We asked the students of the **II. A** class what they buy for Christmas and who they get money from.

#### What do you buy for Christmas?

<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Presents FOR MUMS</b> Cosmetics, clothes, purses, handbags, books, jewellery, kitchen equipment	Books, perfumes
<b>Presents FOR DADS</b> Sport clothes, socks	Tools, CDs, shower gels, aftershaves
<b>Presents FOR SIBLINGS</b> Toys, clothes, books, jewellery (or nothing, because they don't deserve it ☹)	
<b>Presents FOR GRANDPARENTS</b> Photos/photobooks, pyjamas, slippers	
<b>Presents FOR FRIENDS</b> Photos/photo books, perfumes, jewellery	
<b>Where do you get the money from?</b> We save up pocket money or money given from relatives for birthdays, names-days, confirmation celebration or from part-time jobs.	
<b>How much money are you willing to spend on Christmas presents?</b> We will probably spend from 20 EUR to 50 EUR	

## Music

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**We Wish You a Merry Christmas** is a popular sixteenth-century English carol. The origin of this Christmas carol lies in the English tradition - wealthy people of the community gave Christmas treats to the carolers on Christmas Eve, such as figgy puddings. /From [www.wikipedia.com/](http://www.wikipedia.com/)

# *We wish you a merry Christmas*

*We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year*

### REFRAIN

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*Now bring us some figgy pudding  
Now bring us some figgy pudding  
Now bring us some figgy pudding  
And bring some out here*

### REFRAIN

*For we all like figgy pudding  
We all like figgy pudding  
We all like figgy pudding  
So bring some out here*

### REFRAIN

*And we won't go until we've got some  
We won't go until we've got some  
We won't go until we've got some  
So bring some out here*

Listen to the song at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucZITu9Xw18>

**Vocabulary:** carol – koleda; caroler – koledník; origin – pôvod; wealthy – bohatý; treat – pohostenie, pochúťka; Christmas Eve – Štedrý večer; figgy – figový; tidings – zvesti, správy; kin – príbuzenstvo, rodina

## *How can shopping turn into a nightmare.*

By Ivan Košút, IV.A

*Do you like shopping? I do love shopping. I buy everything from food to garden trees. Do you ask me if I am a shopaholic? Well, I don't know the right answer to this question but when some friend asks me to go shopping with him or her, my answer is always positive.*

*It was a day like any other. I woke up, washed my teeth, had a shower and went to school. After the lessons, my mobile phone rang. It was the voice of my Mum telling me that I should buy some flowers for my Grandma's birthday. As I was going to the flower shop, I met my friend Lucas. He offered to go with me. There, I asked a shopping assistant to advise me what flowers I should buy. She showed me a beautiful orchid. While I was paying for it, Lucas took it and we headed for home. While we were going, Lucas began screaming. His thumb was red and swollen. Instead of going home, we went to the doctor's. The doctor said he must have been bitten by a spider. It was not a poisonous spider but Lucas has had nightmares ever since.*

*It was a terrible day. Although Lucas hasn't had decent sleep from those times, my Grandma was very pleased to get such a beautiful flower.*

## Grammar – word formation

### Verbs ending in -en

These verbs can be divided into certain categories:

- **Dimensions and shape** – lengthen (predĺžiť), shorten (skrátit), straighten (vyrovnať);
- **Light and colour** - brighten (zjasniť, vyjasniť, zosvetliť), darken (tmavnúť), whiten (vybieliť), redden (sčervenieť);
- **Density and composition** – harden (stvrdnúť), soften (zjemniť), thicken (zhustiť);
- **Others** – moisten (zvlhčiť), loosen (uvoľniť), lessen (zmenšiť)

Can you guess the meaning of the following verbs?

deaden      flatten      freshen      broaden      deepen

Now observe how the above-mentioned verbs can be used in the context:

The new snow **whitened** the land but the murderer's crime **reddened** the snow by blood. The sky **darkened** when the body laid on the red snow. The day **brightened** because angels sang the song for a dead woman. Cold **freshened** the dead body. **Don't go outside because you will end up like a Christmas fried fish!**

*The Bloody Skies of IV.A*

One day I visited a dentist. I thought that my teeth were yellow, because I used to **sweeten** my meals too much. The dentist told me my teeth were crooked and must be **straightened** instead of **whitened**. Firstly, I opened my mouth and the doctor **deadened** my teeth. Then I observed a weird tool coming into my mouth. I **reddened** and run away.

*The Clever Owls of IV.A*

Long ago, when there was still dark ruling the world, in the long-forgotten forest there lived one brave deer. He hated living this dark life. So he decided he was going to **brighten** and **shorten** the age of darkness. As he was a graduate of the Oxford University, he invented a great plan how to save his beloved forest. He cast Expetro Patronum and **moistened** the air covered by the fog. This heroic deed was written in the history of deer and he was awarded with the title "Richard the deerheart".

*The falling squirrels of IV.A*

## **General pleasantries (Všeobecné zdvorilostné frázy)**

### **When your moving may bother someone**

<i>Excuse me.</i>	<i>Prepáčte.</i>
<i>Pardon me</i>	<i>Prepáčte.</i>
<i>Coming through.</i>	<i>Prechádzam.</i>
<i>I beg your pardon.</i>	<i>Prosím o prepáčenie.</i>
<i>Could I get by, please?</i>	<i>Mohol/-la by som prejsť, prosím Vás?</i>
<i>Watch your feet.</i>	<i>Pozor kam stúpate!</i>

### **Offering to let someone enter in front of you**

<i>After you.</i>	<i>Až po Vás.</i>
<i>Ladies first.</i>	<i>Najskôr dámy.</i>
<i>You first.</i>	<i>Najskôr Vy.</i>
<i>Age before beauty. (jocular cliché)</i>	<i>Vek pred krásou. (žartovné klišé)</i>

### **Apologizing to someone you have bothered.**

<i>I´m sorry.</i>	<i>Ľutujem. Prepáčte.</i>
<i>Forgive me.</i>	<i>Odpustite mi/prepáčte.</i>
<i>Sorry to be a bother.</i>	<i>Prepáčte, že obťažujem.</i>
<i>Sorry for the inconvenience.</i>	<i>Prepáčte za ťažkosti.</i>

### **Explaining that you will attend to someone soon**

<i>I´ll be there in just a moment.</i>	<i>Budem tu o chvíľu.</i>
<i>Be there in a minute.</i>	<i>Budem tam o minútku.</i>
<i>I´ll be right with you.</i>	<i>Už-aj som pri Vás.</i>
<i>I´ll be with you in a moment.</i>	<i>Moment, hneď som pri Vás.</i>

*According to NTC´s Dictionary of EVERYDAY AMERICAN ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS written by Richard A. Spears, Betty Birner, and Steven Kleinedler.*