

Generalising about Xmas and New Year

hedging/ generalising/ adverbs of frequency/ quantifiers/ Xmas vocabulary

Use phrases like those on this and the following page below to explain things related to winter festivals/ holidays such as attitudes and actions, making sure that you use the right level of phrase to reflect how many people, how often, etc. You don't have to use words from all columns below (although it is possible). Instead, it's probably better to choose a word from one column and use words from one or more other columns to make a sentence from it. See if your partner agrees, discuss it for as long as you like, do the same with your partner's statement, then take turns doing the same.

	How many	Kinds of people	How often
● According to ● Amongst people I know ● In my experience ● I get the feeling that ● (From discussions I've had on the subject) I have formed the impression that ● A survey has shown that ● If you can believe... ● It wouldn't surprise me if ● Judging from the movies ● Judging from...	● (absolutely) all ● a considerable number of ● a fairly large number of ● a large number of ● a substantial number of ● a small minority of ● a substantial minority of ● a tiny minority of ● almost all ● almost no ● few ● many ● most ● not many ● practically all ● practically no ● the vast majority of ● very few ● very nearly all ● virtually all ● virtually no	● Americans ● (East) Asians ● baby boomers ● bosses ● British people ● cool kids ● English speakers ● Europeans ● Generation X ● hipsters ● intellectuals ● (late) middle-aged people ● millennials ● people in developed countries ● people in developing countries ● people in this city ● people in this country ● pre-school kids ● retired people ● shopkeepers ● students ● teachers ● teenagers ● the (lower/ upper) middle class ● toddlers ● tweens ● working class people ● young children ● young people	- almost - always - almost - never - always - frequently - generally - hardly ever - occasionally - often - rarely - seldom - usually - without fail

When your teacher stops you, ask about anything above and below you don't understand, using the language to make generalisations each time.

Verb	Objects/ Topics	
● are confused by ● are (well/un-)informed about ● are sceptical about ● are stressed by ● (try to) avoid ● believe in.../ that... is... ● buy/ purchase ● can('t) afford/ buy/ pay for ● can't be bothered ● celebrate ● cook ● drink/ (over)eat ● enjoy/ like – dislike ● feel confident about ● feel nostalgic about ● forget about ● give – receive ● hang/ put up/ decorate ● have ● have a bad impression of ● have (...) memories of ● have given up ● have (never) heard of ● have (no) interest in ● have problems with ● have tried ● ignore – pay attention to ● know... (off by heart) ● learn... (by heart) ● listen to/ watch ● make (homemade)/ prepare ● pray ● prefer... (to...) ● record ● sing ● (over)spend ● take part in/ attend ● think of ● (mis)understand ● use... (properly) ● visit ● want to/ would (like to) ● waste time/ money on ● wear ● write (to)	● advent calendar ● angel ● argument/ quarrel/ row ● baubles ● cake ● candles ● candy (cane) ● (post)card(s) ● carol singer(s) ● carrots ● champagne (cork) ● (fried/ roast) chicken ● Chinese horoscope ● chocolate(s) ● Christmas crackers ● A Christmas Carol/ Scrooge ● church ● coal ● cranberry sauce ● dates ● decorations ● dessert ● dress up (smart) ● eggnog ● fair/ market ● fairy ● figs ● fireworks ● gingerbread house ● grapes ● Jesus ● (fairy) lights ● (good/ bad) luck ● (un)lucky...	● mandarin/ tangerine ● marzipan ● midnight (mass) ● mince pies ● nativity play ● nativity scene ● nuts/ nutcracker ● paper hat ● (roast) parsnips ● party ● party poppers ● (roast) potatoes ● presents ● pudding ● red underwear ● reindeer (headdress) ● (New Year) resolutions ● restaurant ● roast... ● robin ● Salvation Army ● Santa hat/ costume ● Santa/ Father Xmas ● shop(ping) ● skate ● ski ● sleigh/ sledge ● snowball (fight) ● snowman ● songs/ music ● speech ● spring clean ● stocking ● stolen ● superstition ● a toast ● (real/ plastic) tree ● turkey ● TV ● white Christmas ● wreath

Generalising language presentation

First of all without looking above, brainstorm suitable language into the right places below, with the strongest top. Ones which have the same meaning should go next to each other.

How many

- (absolutely) all
- virtually no

How often

- always/ without fail
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
- almost never

Mixed answers

Use the mixed answers below to help with the task above. Ones with the same meaning should go next to each other.

How many

- (absolutely) all
- a considerable number of
- a fairly large number of
- a large number of
- a small minority of
- a substantial minority of
- a substantial number of
- a tiny minority of
- almost all
- almost no
- few
- many people
- most people
- not many
- practically all
- practically no
- the vast majority of
- very few
- very nearly all
- virtually all
- virtually no

How often

- almost always
- almost never
- always
- frequently
- generally
- hardly ever
- occasionally
- often
- rarely
- seldom
- usually
- without fail

Check as a class or with the suggested answers.

Suggested answers

Other language and rankings may be possible, so please check if you wrote something different.

How many

- (absolutely) all
- virtually all/ practically all/ very nearly all
- almost all
- the vast majority of
- most
- many/ a large number of
- a considerable number of/ a substantial number of
- a fairly large number of
- a substantial minority of
- not many/ few
- a small minority of
- very few/ a tiny minority of
- almost no
- practically no/ virtually no

How often

- always/ without fail
- almost always
- usually/ generally
- often/ frequently
- occasionally
- seldom/ rarely
- hardly ever
- almost never

Use the same language to make statements about other festivals and celebrations.

Do the same, but with only the mixed answers to help.

Do the same, but with no help.