Christmas Eve: a guide

exam practice: choose the right word

1 Read the text. Choose A, B or C and write the word in the gap.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN POLAND: A GUIDE FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Hi! I'm Marta, and this is how my family spends Christmas Eve. In the morning, we **1** _____ the Christmas tree together. We don't eat meat on this day, so we have fish, pierogi and beet soup.

Dinner starts **2** _____ we see the first star in the sky. Before we eat, we share opłatek, a thin wafer, and we wish each other health and happiness.

There are twelve dishes on the table, and there is always an empty **3** _____ for an unexpected guest. After dinner, we **4** _____ the presents under the tree.

Some families **5** _____ carols, and some go to church at midnight. It's my favorite evening of the year **6** _____ the whole family gets together.

	A	B	C
1	decorate	decorates	decorating
2	where	when	what
3	bed	room	seat
4	open	opens	opened
5	singing	sings	sing
6	so	because	but

2 Cover the text. Answer the questions from memory.

✋ COVER AND REMEMBER

QUESTION	ANSWER
1 When does dinner start?	When they see the first star.
2 What don't people eat on Christmas Eve?	They don't eat meat.
3 What is opłatek?	It's a thin wafer. People share it and make wishes.
4 Why is there an empty seat?	It's for an unexpected guest.
5 Why does Marta love this evening?	Because the whole family gets together.

Agree or disagree?

give your opinion and a reason

1 Read the opinions and the answers.

✋ THEN COVER THE ANSWERS

Cover the right side. Read an opinion and give your own answer with a reason.

	OPINION	ANSWER + REASON
1	Christmas starts too early in stores.	I totally agree. I saw Christmas decorations in October!
2	Money is a boring present.	I don't agree. With money I can buy what I really want.
3	Phones should be off during Christmas Eve dinner.	I think so too. It's family time.
4	Real trees are better than artificial ones.	I'm not sure. They smell great, but they make a mess.
5	Christmas movies are always the same.	That's true, but I still watch them every year!
6	Teenagers don't need presents.	I partly agree. Time with family is more important.

USEFUL PHRASES

I totally agree. I think so too. I partly agree. I'm not sure. I don't agree. I don't think so.

In my opinion, ... because ... . That's true, but ... . For example, ...

2 Choose one opinion. Write what you think, why, and give an example. Then read it to your group. Do they agree?

In my opinion, ... because ... . For example, ...

Two weeks off!

read the plan, cover it, talk about plans

1 Read Maja's plan for the Christmas break.

Date	Maja's plan
🛍️ December 23	go shopping for presents with her best friend
🍲 December 24	help her mom cook dinner, have Christmas Eve dinner
🚆 December 25	take the train to Lublin and visit her grandparents
🏂 December 27 to 30	go skiing in Zakopane with her dad
🎆 December 31	go to a New Year's Eve party at Ania's house
😴 January 1	sleep until noon and watch movies

2 Cover the plan. Answer with going to.

✋ COVER AND REMEMBER

QUESTION	ANSWER
1 What is Maja going to do on December 23?	
2 Is she going to stay home on December 25?	
3 Who is she going to go skiing with?	
4 Where is she going to be on New Year's Eve?	
5 What is she going to do on January 1?	

3 Your break. Write three plans. Then ask your partner: What are you going to do at Christmas?

On Christmas Eve I'm going to ... . After Christmas I'm going to ... . I'm not going to ... .

Polite reactions

exam practice: what do you say?



1 Read the situations. Choose the best reaction: A, B or C.

1 Ciocia daje ci prezent. Dziękujesz jej. Answer: _____
A) You're welcome. B) Thank you so much! I love it! C) Here you are.

2 Ktoś życzy ci wesołych świąt. Odpowiadasz, że nawzajem. Answer: _____
A) Thanks, the same to you! B) Me neither. C) Not at all.

3 Proponujesz mamie, że pomożesz jej ubrać choinkę. Answer: _____
A) Can you help me with the tree? B) Did you decorate the tree?
C) Shall I help you decorate the tree?

4 Przepraszasz, że spóźniłeś się na kolację wigilijną. Answer: _____
A) Excuse me, where is the bus? B) Sorry I'm late. The bus didn't come.
C) I'm sorry to hear that.

5 Pytasz kolegę z Anglii, co będzie robił w święta. Answer: _____
A) What are you going to do at Christmas? B) What did you do at Christmas?
C) What do you do at work?

2 Read the situation. Say the reaction. Then cover the right side and act it out with a partner.

✋ COVER AND REMEMBER

	SYTUACJA	REACTION
1	Dajesz przyjacielowi prezent i składasz życzenia.	This is for you. Merry Christmas!
2	Prosisz babcię o przepis na jej pierniki.	Can I have the recipe for your gingerbread, please?
3	Pytasz koleżankę, co chciałaby dostać na święta.	What would you like for Christmas?
4	Mówisz, że twoim ulubionym świątecznym jedzeniem są pierogi.	My favorite Christmas food is pierogi.
5	Prezent ci się nie podoba, ale grzecznie dziękujesz.	Thank you! That's really kind of you.

Working at Christmas

exam practice: read and match

1 Read about three people who work at Christmas.

A. Anna, a nurse

I work at a children's hospital in Gdańsk. This year I have to work on Christmas Eve from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. It's hard to be away from my family, but the kids need us. My family celebrates with me the next day.

B. Piotr, a ski instructor

I spend every Christmas in the mountains because it's the busiest time of the year. I teach kids all day. On Christmas Eve we stop early, and all the instructors have dinner together. We even have twelve dishes!

C. Lucy, a flight attendant

Last year I spent Christmas Eve on a plane over the Atlantic. We wore Santa hats and gave every passenger a cookie. They loved it! This year I'm lucky: I'm going to be home for Christmas.

2 Which person is it? Write A, B or C.

✋ THEN COVER THE TEXTS

Then cover the texts and say two things about each person from memory.

1 This person is going to celebrate Christmas at home this year. _____

2 This person has a special dinner with people from work. _____

3 This person works all night on Christmas Eve. _____

4 This person gave people something sweet. _____

5 This person's family celebrates a day later. _____

6 For this person, Christmas is the busiest time of the year. _____

3 Would you like to work at Christmas? Why? Why not?

I'd / I wouldn't like to work at Christmas because ... .

Christmas taboo

explain the word, but not with these words

1 Read the descriptions. What is it?

✋ THEN COVER THE WORDS

Useful phrases: It's a kind of... You use it to... It's something you... People ... it at Christmas.

	DESCRIPTION	WORD
1	It's on the roof of a house. Smoke goes out through it, and Santa comes down it.	
2	They're loud and colorful. People watch them in the sky on New Year's Eve.	
3	It's a kind of calendar with 24 little doors. There's chocolate behind each door.	
4	You go there to skate. The floor is made of ice.	

2 Cut out the cards. Explain the word to your group, but don't say the taboo words!

✂️

🎄 **Christmas tree** Don't say: green, decorate, forest	🎁 **present** Don't say: gift, box, open	🦌 **reindeer** Don't say: Santa, animal, sleigh	☃️ **snowman** Don't say: snow, carrot, build
🧦 **stocking** Don't say: sock, fireplace, hang	🍪 **gingerbread** Don't say: cookie, bake, sweet	🎶 **Christmas carol** Don't say: song, sing, music	🕯️ **candle** Don't say: fire, light, table
❄️ **snowflake** Don't say: snow, white, cold	🎅 **Santa Claus** Don't say: beard, red, presents	🌃 **Christmas Eve** Don't say: December, 24, dinner	🔔 **bell** Don't say: ring, sound, jingle