

Christmas traditions in the UK

Decorating the Christmas tree

This is a very important ritual.

You are meant to decorate your tree with lights and shiny objects.

You should take down your Christmas tree 12 days after Christmas day. You are meant to put a star on the top of the tree.



Christmas Stockings

The **legend** is that Father Christmas goes around to every house and drops **presents** into **stockings**. He does this on the night before Christmas day. Stockings are large socks which Christmas presents are put into.

Christmas Crackers

On Christmas day, before you eat lunch, you pull **Christmas crackers**. These are made of paper and contain little presents, a paper crown and a message or joke on paper.



What you eat at lunchtime on Christmas day.

Turkey: This is the most typical meat eaten on Christmas day. The Turkey should have **stuffing**. Stuffing is made from breadcrumbs and herbs which are put inside the turkey.

Roast potatoes, carrots, mushrooms, peas, Brussels sprouts, parsnips, gravy (which is a meat sauce).

For **pudding**, which is another name for dessert, you have **Christmas pudding** which is a type of cake. A picture of a Christmas pudding is on the right hand side.



New Year's resolutions

- I will go to the gym in 2014. (*Instant decision, confident prediction*)
- I might go to the gym. (*It is possible, not certain*)
- I am going to go to the gym in 2014. (*General plan*)
- I am meeting my gym instructor next Monday. (*Precise plan*)

Some business jargon

- Can we 'touch base' tomorrow?** This is another way of saying 'let's get back in contact'.
- We need to 'brainstorm' this.** This means to 'think creatively about a situation or problem'.
- It is a 'game changer'.** This refers to a decision or initiative that will make a fundamental difference.
- She is a 'fire fighter'.** This refers to a person who can effectively deal with or resolve a difficult situation.
- He is on my 'bandwidth'.** This is another way of saying that he 'thinks the same way as I do'.

Some business acronyms

- CAO - Chief Accounting Officer
- CEO - Chief Executive Officer
- CFO - Chief Financial Officer
- CIO - Chief Information Officer, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Innovation Officer
- CISO - Chief Information Security Officer
- CMO - Chief Marketing Officer
- COB - Close of business
- COO - Chief Operating Officer
- FTE - Full-time equivalent
- FY - Fiscal year
- HR - Human Resources
- KPI - Key performance indicators
- NDA - Non-disclosure agreement
- POS - Point of sale
- R&D - Research and Development
- ROI - Return on investment
- SBU - Strategic Business Unit
- SME - Small to Medium Enterprise
- USP - Unique selling proposition/point
- VP - Vice President
- WC - Week commencing
- WE - Week ending
- YTD - Year to date

Coming soon in the January Edition – Twenty useful verbs for the workplace.