



HELLO!

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF
OUR NEWSLETTER.



The time has come - Christmas is knocking on the door. Let's all slow down and enjoy the winter days.

TIP: If you're looking for a **hassle***-free Christmas market to go to this year I can recommend "[Die Feuerzangenbowle im Nikolaiviertel](#)" (17.11.-01.01.). I went there last year and loved it. This might be the smallest Christmas market in Berlin with about two stands and with an old black-and-white movie to watch while you sip some warm delicious drinks.

***hassle**: a situation causing difficulty or trouble

LET'S START WITH: SOME WINTER AND CHRISTMAS THEMED VOCABULARY

bundle up

get dressed warmly

- You'll have to **bundle up**, it's cold outside.

Christmassy

characteristic of or suitable for Christmas

- **Christmassy** music
- I don't feel very **Christmassy**

be snowed under

when you have so much work that you don't know what to do first

- I'd love to help you cook but I'm **snowed under** with work.

break the ice

do or say something that makes people feel less shy or nervous in a social situation

- He told a few jokes to **break the ice**.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

don't be ungrateful when you receive a present, even if it's not exactly what you wanted

It's the thought that counts.

it's the kindness behind an act that matters, however imperfect it may be

Good things come in small packages.

the size of a gift doesn't determine what's inside



Which two or three phrases above do you like the best?

If you focus on a few expressions that you like, you'll remember them better.

I like these phrases:

- **bundle up**
- **don't look a gift horse in the mouth**
- **it's the thought that counts**

And what about YOU? Which words/phrases do you like?

- -----
- -----
- -----



QUICK CHRISTMAS DISCUSSION

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Here is some useful language for saying what you think:

I think (that) ...

Personally, I think ...

I'd say that ...

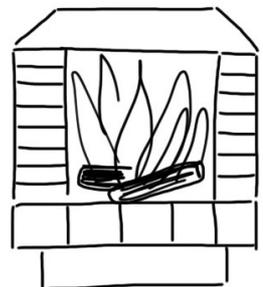
In my experience, ...

As I see it, ...

Speaking for myself ...

And here are some questions for you to think about. In your head, try to use the phrases above:

- Do you think that in general people spend too much money on Christmas presents?
- What do you like about the time around Christmas?
- What do you not like about this time?
- What are your first memories of Christmas?
- What smells do you associate with Christmas?
- What are some of the tips you can share on how to survive Christmas feeling relaxed and happy?
- What's your best family Christmas recipe?
- Which Christmas hot (and optionally: alcoholic) drink always makes you feel better during this time?



LET'S MOVE ON TO

VOCABULARY: PHRASAL VERBS CONNECTED TO CHRISTMAS

What is a **phrasal verb**?

*Phrasal verbs are special verbs that consist of two (or three) words, typically a verb and a preposition. For example: **put off** / **wrap up** / **look forward to***

What do the phrasal verbs in the following questions mean?

1. Do you usually **put off** buying presents until the last minute?
2. Are you **looking forward to** the Christmas time?
3. Do you enjoy **wrapping up** presents?
4. Do you **eat out** with your colleagues before Christmas?
5. Do you usually **bump into** old friends on the Christmas market?

**put off**

do something later; postpone

look forward to (doing something)

be excited and happy about something that's going to happen

wrap up

cover something completely with paper material

eat out

eat in a restaurant as opposed to home-cooked meals

bump into

meet someone by chance

AND HERE'S SOME READING FOR CHRISTMAS TIME:

"Ho Ho No! 8 Reasons Why I Really, REALLY Don't Like Christmas."

#authentic text #easy topic #blog style #medium-long

www.seanhamptoncole.wordpress.com/2012/12/22/ho-ho-no-8-reasons-why-i-really-really-dont-like-christmas

"Starbucks Is Criticized for Its Holiday Cups. Yes, Again."

#authentic text #easy topic #medium-long

www.nytimes.com/2017/11/20/style/starbucks-gay-agenda.html

"Christmas Markets a Deeply Rooted Tradition in Germany"

#authentic text #easy topic #medium-long

www.dw.com/en/christmas-markets-a-deeply-rooted-tradition-in-germany/a-36844766



First reading - try reading the texts without a dictionary.

Second reading (if you want to and have the time) - look up a few words to get a better understanding of the article (maximum 10 words per page).

HERE ARE THREE VIDEO SUGGESTIONS TO WATCH THIS MONTH:

"How to Buy Happiness"

#authentic video #easy topic #short (10:58) #consumerism

www.ted.com/talks/michael_norton_how_to_buy_happiness#t-461853

"Less Stuff, More Happiness"

#authentic video #easy topic #very short (05:49) #consumerism

www.ted.com/talks/graham_hill_less_stuff_more_happiness

"Tough Truths about Plastic Pollution"

#authentic video #very short (05:18) #environment

www.ted.com/talks/dianna_cohen_tough_truths_about_plastic_pollution#t-175936



Try to watch the videos without subtitles.

Why not watch them twice for better understanding?

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL:

MY FAVOURITE EGGNOG* RECIPE

***eggnog**: der Eierlikör

Here's my **tried and tested*** eggnog recipe:

***tried and tested**: something that has proven to be good, effective or reliable in the past

INGREDIENTS:

- **2 tins* of condensed milk**
 - 1 can with added sugar and 1 can without, altogether about 500 ml
(***tin** is the *British English* word for **can** - *American English* = eine Dose)
- **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
 - either you buy it in the store or you make your own (drop me a line if you want my home-made vanilla extract recipe!)
- **5 egg yolks**
 - absolutely fresh and organic
- **good Rum**
 - I'll leave it up to you how much of it you want to use. Anything between 100-500 ml is OK, I usually take about 300ml. I personally prefer a milder version of the eggnog.



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Take a big pot, fill it up with water, put the two cans in it and bring the water to boil. The cans must be fully covered in water.
- Once it starts boiling, reduce the heat to minimum and leave the cans there for two hours. Put a lid on. CAREFUL: check it from time to time to make sure that there is enough water in the pot.
- After two hours switch off the heat, remove the lid and wait until the water isn't so hot any more (1-2 hours or just wait till the next day).
- Carefully take the cans out of the water and open them. The one with added sugar will have completely changed into caramel (super yummy, don't eat too much of it as you'll need it for your drink).
- Optionally you can heat the egg yolks in a **bain-marie*** (*Wasserbad)
- Put the egg yolks in a mixer together with everything else and mix really well! If there are some crumbs, continue mixing. ENJOY!



“You get the most of what you need the least!”

MURPHY'S LAW OF GIFT GIVING

www.lanickova.com