



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

# THE END OF YEAR IS NEAR

2024

## End-of-Year Newsletter: A Year of Learning and Growth!

Dear Students,

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared this year. We've explored new vocabulary, tackled tricky grammar points, and, most importantly, we've built confidence in speaking and listening. It has been a fantastic year of learning, and I couldn't be more proud of all of you!

In this special edition of the newsletter, we are looking back at the highlights of the year and looking ahead to exciting opportunities in 2025. Whether you're celebrating the holidays, planning your New Year's resolutions, or simply taking a break, I have put together some festive language tips, fun activities, and announcements to keep your English skills fresh and fun over the holidays.



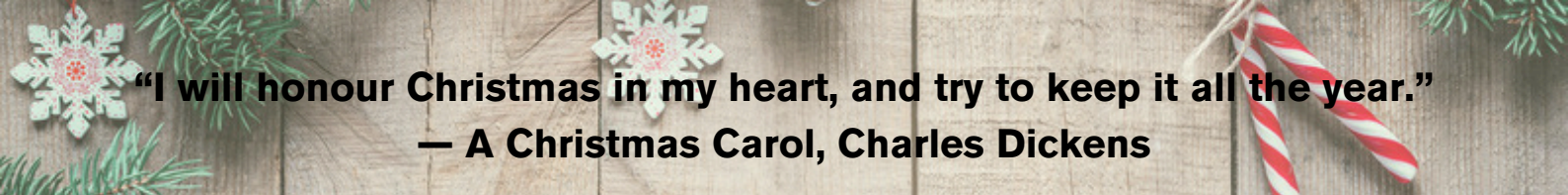
# Year-in-Review

Highlights from Our Classes Reflecting on this year's journey, we have tackled everything from mastering tricky idioms to feeling more comfortable with speaking in English. Remember those Halloween stories we shared? Or the challenges you faced in our vocabulary quizzes? It has been a year of growth, and the progress each of you has made is inspiring!

## Upcoming Events for 2025

### Community English Conversation Brunches at Lola's

Join us for our new monthly English Conversation Brunches at Lola's in El Prat de Llobregat! Whether you're just getting started or already speak English fluently, these meetups are the perfect way to improve your language skills in a relaxed, friendly setting. Practice conversation with native English speakers while enjoying a delicious brunch, connecting with fellow learners, and making new friends. Don't miss this opportunity to take your English to the next level—mark your calendar for our first brunch of the year!



**“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”  
— A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens**

## Holiday Language Fun!

### Winter Vocabulary

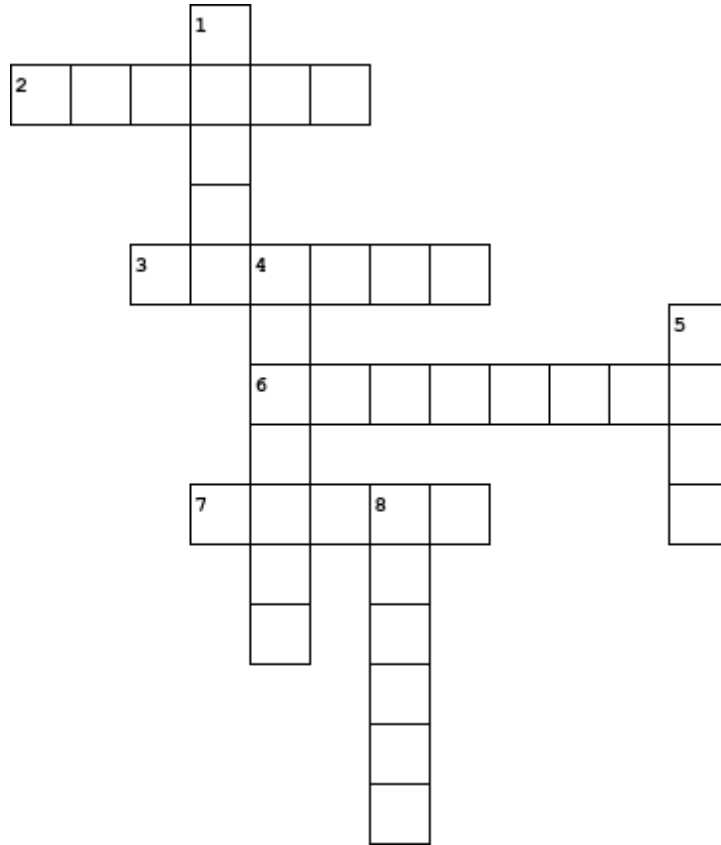
As we head into the colder months, it is the perfect time to practice some winter vocabulary.

Here are a few words to sprinkle into your conversations:

- **Frost** (noun): A thin layer of ice crystals formed on a surface, typically in the early morning.
- **Sleigh** (noun): A type of vehicle used on snow, traditionally pulled by horses or reindeer.
- **Snuggle** (verb): To cuddle up in warmth, especially on cold nights.

**Language Tip:** Practice using these words in a sentence to describe the holiday season in your own country. For example, ***"In my country, we snuggle up with hot cocoa when the frost comes!"***

# Christmas Crossword



## Across

2. A holiday decoration that hangs on doors
3. Christmas songs
6. The month Christmas is celebrated in
7. Santa's helpers

## Down

1. The man who delivers presents on Christmas Eve
4. A red-nosed reindeer
5. A decorated tree
8. A traditional Christmas drink made with milk and eggs

# A British Christmas Tradition

One popular Christmas tradition in the UK is the **Christmas cracker**. These colourful paper tubes are pulled apart by two people, usually with a loud 'pop', revealing a small gift, a paper hat, and a (terrible) joke inside. Christmas crackers are often placed on the dinner table, and they are a fun way to bring people together to celebrate the season.



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## A Christmas Poem

Here is a classic Christmas poem:

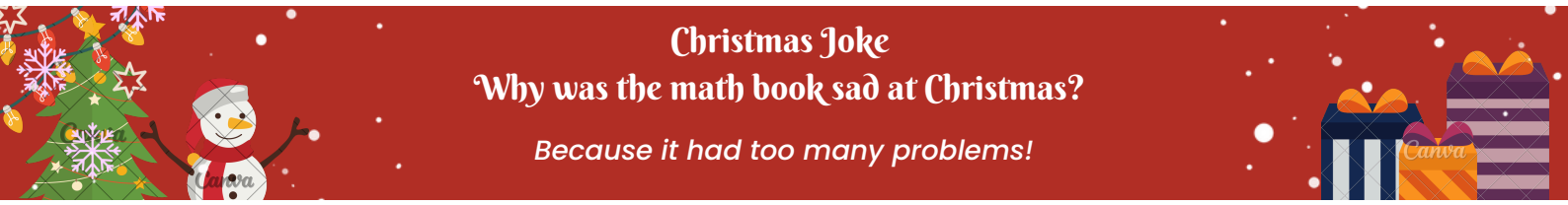
### "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads;  
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap...

"**A Visit from St. Nicholas**," commonly known as "**The Night Before Christmas**," Was written by **Clement Clarke Moore** in 1823. This classic poem has become a beloved part of Christmas tradition, describing the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

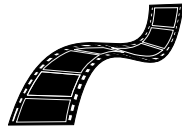
## Now it's your turn!

Write your own poem and send it to [yorkstonschool@gmail.com](mailto:yorkstonschool@gmail.com) by the end of January for a chance to have it published on our next newsletter!



# Holiday Activities for English Learners

To keep your English sharp during the holidays, here are some fun activities:



## 1. Watch a Holiday Movie in English

Watching films in English is a great way to improve your listening skills and pick up new vocabulary! Here are some Halloween classics:

1. How about trying classics like **Home Alone** or **The Polar Express**?

**Activity Tip:** Watch with subtitles to practice your listening skills, or challenge yourself by turning them **off!**



## 2. Read a Book

Here are some classic and modern Christmas books that would make great reads during the festive season:

### Classic Christmas Books:

1. **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens  
A timeless story about Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly man who learns the true meaning of Christmas after being visited by three ghosts.
2. **The Nutcracker and the Mouse King** by E.T.A. Hoffmann  
A magical tale about a young girl, Clara, who dreams of a magical nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve.
3. **The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg  
A beautifully illustrated story about a young boy's magical train ride to the North Pole, discovering the spirit of Christmas.

4. **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Seuss

A fun, whimsical story of the Grinch, who learns that Christmas isn't about presents but about love and kindness.

5. **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

While not solely a Christmas book, this classic novel features many memorable Christmas moments, especially the famous scene where the March sisters share their Christmas breakfast with their mother.

### Modern Christmas Books:

1. **The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey** by Susan Wojciechowski

A heartwarming story of a grumpy woodworker and the unexpected Christmas miracle that brings joy and healing.

2. **Skipping Christmas** by John Grisham

A humorous and heartwarming novel about a couple who decide to skip Christmas altogether, only to find that their plans don't go as expected.

3. **The Snowman** by Raymond Briggs

A beautiful picture book about a boy who builds a snowman that comes to life, taking him on a magical adventure.

4. **The Christmas Chronicles** by Tim Slover

A charming novel about the origin of the story of Santa Claus, filled with magic and Christmas wonder.

5. **Merry Christmas, Curious George** by Margret & H.A. Rey

A delightful holiday tale about everyone's favorite curious monkey, George, as he celebrates Christmas in his own unique way.

**Activity Tip:** As you read, write down any new words or phrases and try to use them in sentences of your own.



### 4. Holiday Conversations Practice

Practice English by talking with friends or classmates about holiday traditions.

Here are a few fun questions to ask:

- What is your favourite holiday tradition?
- How do you celebrate the New Year in your country?
- What is the best holiday gift you have ever received?

**Activity Tip:** Set a timer for 10 minutes and see how long you can keep the conversation going, using only English!

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# Special Announcement: New Year, New Goals!

As we look toward 2025, it is the perfect time to set new language-learning goals. Whether it is mastering a new grammar point or improving your fluency in conversation, now is the time to make it happen. What are your learning goals for 2025?

## Did you know?

The tradition of hanging stockings comes from a legend about **St. Nicholas**.

The story goes that St. Nicholas, known for his generosity, wanted to help a poor family. The father of the family couldn't afford to provide dowries for his three daughters, meaning they couldn't get married. So, one night, St. Nicholas secretly threw three bags of gold into the family's house. The bags landed in the daughters' stockings, which were hung by the fireplace to dry. From this story, the tradition of hanging stockings for Santa to fill was born

## Audio Courses to Boost Your Learning!

### Enhance Your Learning with Our Audio Courses!

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At Yorkston School, we understand that learning doesn't always have to happen in the classroom. That's why, in addition to our regular classes, we offer audio courses that let you practice English wherever you are! Whether you're commuting, taking a walk, or relaxing at home, our audio lessons are designed to fit seamlessly into your everyday life.

### Why choose our audio courses?

- **Convenience:** Learn at your own pace, on your own time, and from anywhere.
- **Engagement:** Stay motivated with fresh, interesting content designed to keep you engaged.
- **Personalized:** Our lessons are tailored to fit your individual needs and learning goals.
- **Boost your skills:** Perfect for reinforcing what you learn in class and making consistent progress.

If you're looking to take your English to the next level, our audio courses are the perfect companion to your regular lessons. Want to know more? **Get in touch** today to find out how you can start integrating these audio lessons into your routine.

Don't let the holiday season slow down your learning! Get in touch with us now for more information and to start your audio learning journey today.

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### **Learn English Your Way: Online and Face-to-Face Classes Available!**

At Yorkston School, we offer flexible learning options to suit your needs, whether you prefer online classes or face-to-face lessons. Both options provide a dynamic, engaging learning experience.

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## Thank You Note and Highlights from Our Christmas Dinner

### **A Big Thank You to Our Students**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students who attended our Christmas dinner. The evening was filled with laughter, great conversation, and delicious food at Lola's Brunch. We rounded off the night with a festive game of bingo and a fun Secret Santa exchange. Your presence made the event truly special—without you, these enjoyable community gatherings wouldn't be possible. We've included some photos below to help us remember the wonderful time we shared. Thank you all, and here's to many more memorable moments ahead!

P.S Please don't worry if you couldn't come as there will be plenty more.





# Thank You for a Wonderful Year

Thank you all for being such an integral part of our learning community. I am grateful for each one of you and the hard work you have put into improving your English. I hope you enjoy your holiday break, and I am excited to continue our learning journey together in 2025.

Warm wishes for a festive season full of joy, relaxation, and learning!

Happy Holidays,  
**Carla Yorkston**  
Yorkston School

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## More about me:

Teacher  
Carla Yorkston

Phone  
605 689 514

Email  
[yorkstonschool@gmail.com](mailto:yorkstonschool@gmail.com)

