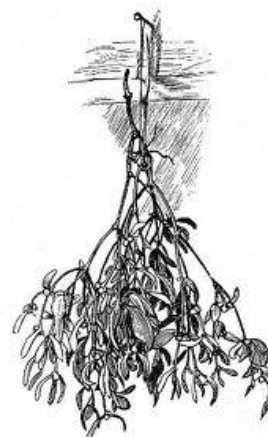


Christmas in Britain

In Britain the first sign that Christmas time is near is when people receive Christmas cards. They buy and send large numbers of them. Some people attach their Christmas cards to coloured strings and hang them up on the walls, others put them on the mantelpiece over their fireplaces.



About ten days before Christmas, many people start to decorate their houses. Wreaths of holly and mistletoe are hung up over the doors and if a boy meets a girl under the mistletoe, she must let him kiss her.



Most people have a Christmas tree in their living room. The tree is decorated with coloured balls, tinsel, chocolate ornaments, candles, robins and on the top there is often a star. Carol singers or choirs go from house to house at Christmas time. They sing Christmas songs, for example Silent Night, and the money they collect is for charity.

On December 24th, Christmas Eve, young people have parties, others go to special shows at the theatre because it is the night for having a lot of fun. The children hang up their stockings over the fireplace. Father Christmas (also known as Santa Claus), who lives at the North Pole, flies through the sky in a sleigh packed with a lot of presents. The sleigh is drawn by nine reindeer called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph. The last one is the most famous of them because of his red nose. At two or three o'clock in the morning Father Christmas comes down the chimney and puts the small presents into the stockings and the bigger ones under the Christmas tree or in front of the fireplace.

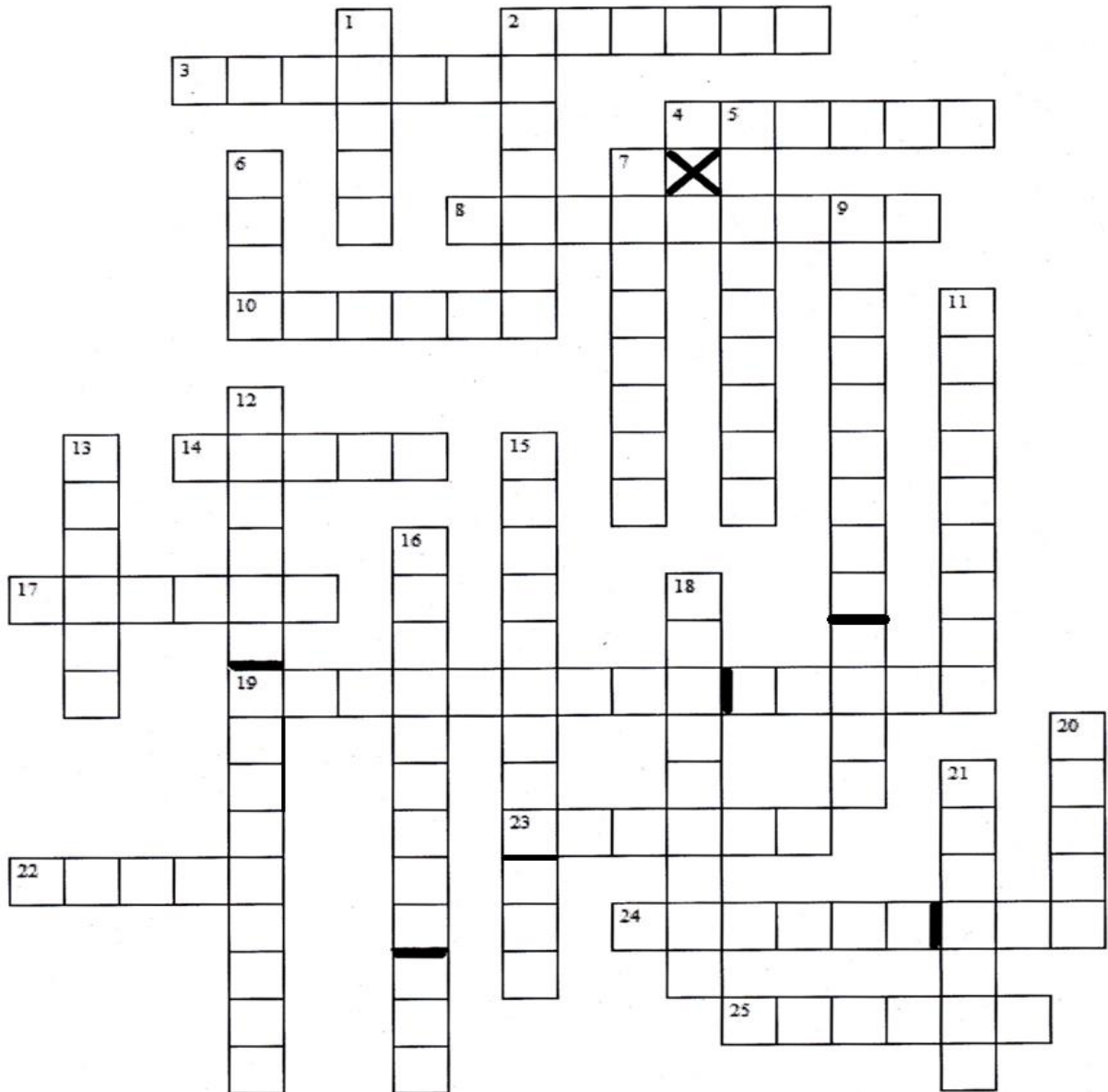
December 25th is called Christmas Day. In the morning people open their gifts. Later on, the smell of turkey and Christmas pudding is in the air. Christmas dinner is a wonderful meal. People put on funny paper hats and they pull crackers, which have jokes or small presents inside them. At 3 p.m., there is the Queen's speech on TV. The Queen usually talks about the last year and she wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

The next day, December 26th, is also known as Boxing Day because many years ago, rich people gave presents to their servants in boxes on this day. Nowadays, in some families, friends and relatives come to visit in the afternoon and the children play with their new toys.

Christmas - Vocabulary

Christmas (or Xmas)	.....
Merry Christmas!	.....
Father Christmas	.....
Christmas Eve	.....
Christmas Day	.....
Boxing Day	.....
Christmas carol	.....
Christmas tree	.....
turkey	.....
Brussel sprouts	.....
Christmas pudding	.....
a holiday	.....
ivy	.....
holly	.....
mistletoe	.....
mantelpiece	.....
chimney	.....
stockings	.....
roof	.....
sledge	.....
reindeer	.....

Christmas in Britain



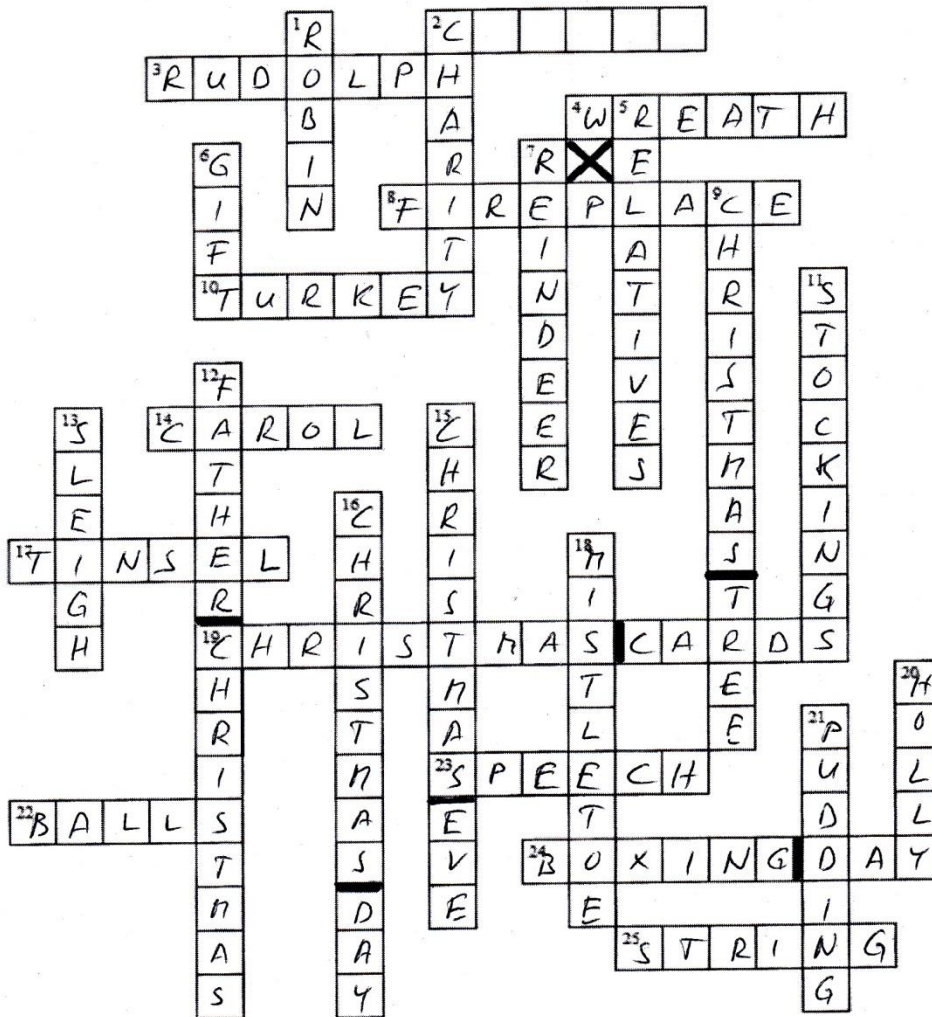
ACROSS

- 2 Kerze
- 3 Das Rentier mit der roten Nase
- 4 Kranz
- 8 Cheminée, Kamin
- 10 Truthahn
- 14 Weihnachtslied
- 17 Lametta, Flitter
- 19 Weihnachtsgrüsse
- 22 Christbaumkugeln
- 23 Die Königin hält das um 15.00
- 24 26.12. Stefanstag
- 25 Faden, Schnur

DOWN

- 1 Rotkehlchen
- 2 Hilfsorganisation
- 5 Verwandte
- 6 Another word for present
- 7 Rentier
- 9 Weihnachtsbaum
- 11 Socken
- 12 Weihnachtsmann, Christkind
- 13 Schlitten
- 15 Heiliger Abend
- 16 25.12.
- 18 Mistel
- 20 Stechpalme
- 21 Gehört zum Weihnachtsessen

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