*Christmas Day

Christmas Day is a public holiday. Families usually spend the day opening their presents which are often piled around the Christmas tree decorated with tinsel, baubles, fairy lights. They eat and drink together. The most important meal is Christmas Dinner. At the start of the meal, British people often pull a cracker, which contains a small toy, a paper bat, and a joke.

tinsel

fairy lights

pile

baubles

crackers

The typical meal consists of turkey with potatoes and other vegetables such as carrots and sprouts. In Britain it is followed by Christmas pudding - a sweet pudding containing a lot of dried fruit and often covered with burning brandy. Other traditional foods in Britain include Christmas cake – a cake containing a lot of dried fruit and usually having a covering of icing (hard sugar) made to be eaten at Christmas, and mince pies.

sprouts

pudding

covering of icing

Mince pies – pies with raisins, almonds, cinnamon and sugar

Americans bake special biscuits called Christmas cookies which they eat over the Christmas season (the time when people prepare for and celebrate Christmas, from mid-December to the end of the year).

In Britain, the day after Christmas is called Boxing Day and is also a public holiday. A lot of sports take place on Boxing Day and many people now spend time watching sport on television. In the US many stores hold special sales where thing can be bought cheaply, on the day after Christmas. Twelve days after Christmas is the time when people are supposed to take down their decorations and remove their Christmas trees .

store

Christmas tree

decorations