**Christmas Language and Customs**

Merry Christmas!

Here’s to a merry Christmas!

To a merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas! Cheers!

Enjoy the Christmas holiday.

Have a nice Christmas season.

Season’s greetings!

Happy holidays!

Yule

Old English (“Ye olde English”)

Yuletide

Xmas

Christmas Eve

 (Valentine’s Day, Easter Sunday, Mother’s Day etc.)

On the eve of …

Christmas Carol

Noel

Lingua Franca

Carolling



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Merry Christmas one and all!

Scrooge

He’s a real Scrooge!

Humbug

Bah! Humbug

What an old humbug you are!

Father Christmas

St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas)



Santa Claus

Urban myth/legend





Christmas stocking

Naughty or nice

The naughty list

A lump of coal

Christmas cake

Christmas pudding / Plum pudding



Mince pies



Yule log



Christmas dinner

Roast meat and pudding

Boar

Pig’s head



Turkey

Stuffing

Cranberry sauce

Christmas cracker



Christmas card

Christmas decorations

Christmas tree

A real (Christmas) tree

An artificial (Christmas) tree

Holly (Christ’s thorn)



Mistletoe

Fertility symbol

Kissing under the mistletoe



The twelve days of Christmas (December 25th – January 5th)

Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th)

Epiphany Eve (January 5th)

Twelfth Night

Boxing Day

St. Stephen’s Day

Alms box



Christmas box

**Modern Traditions**

Secret Santa

The office Christmas party

Milk and cookies

Sherry and a mince pie

The Queen’s speech

The James Bond movie

Home Alone

Christmas sweater



Christmas cracker hat



**New Year Language and Customs**

Janus (God of change and new beginnings)



January first/ January the first/the first of January

New Year’s Eve

New Year’s Day

Seeing in the New Year

New Year’s resolution

Resolve

Make a resolution

Break a resolution

The countdown

The bells

Happy New Year!

New Year’s kiss/ handshake

Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?

Hogmanay

First foot/ first footing

Shortbread/whisky/coal

Mass gatherings

Fireworks display

New Year ball drop (New York)



GMT



Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!