

10 Reasons to Love/Hate Christmas (conversation lesson)

*level: pre-intermediate (A2) +
time: 90 min*

*class: group
skills: speaking*

Warm up

- As your students arrive for the lesson, play a Christmas song to tune them in for the topic. Ask them, if they can guess what you're going to talk about today. Of course, it's Christmas!

Vocabulary

- Prepare a set of pictures to demonstrate some basic Christmas vocabulary (either cut them out from magazines, or use this website www.eslflashcards.com). Together with your Ss, brainstorm Christmas-related vocabulary and elicit those that are new.
- Put your Ss in pairs, distribute the pictures/flashcards and let them ask each other some yes/no questions to find out what's in their pictures. With weaker groups, elicit some possible questions first, such as 'Is it a thing? Do you use it outdoors? Can you eat it?' etc.
- Write the following equation on the board:

$$1/6 + 3/9 + 3/4 + 1/6 + 1/9 + 5/5 + 8/13 + 5/8 + 3/7 = X$$

Explain that each fraction represents a word – you're going to read the definitions and when your Ss guess the right word, they'll use one letter from it to make a secret word. The lower number in each fraction indicates the total number of letters in the word, the higher number indicates the position of the letter you need to create the secret word, e.g. $\frac{1}{4}$ would represent the word COLD, from which you'll use the letter C.

Words to use in the equation above:

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| a) SLEDGE | d) WREATH | g) CHRISTMAS | i) PRESENT |
| b) CANDY CANE | e) FIREPLACE | TREE | (the secret word:
SNOWFLAKE) |
| c) SNOW | f) CAROL | h) STOCKING | |

Board game

- Put Ss into groups of 3 or 4 and hand out a copy of the board game and cards cut out from worksheet 1 to each group. Explain that they're going to play a simple board game. Every time they land on a square, they have to speak about the topic on it for 1 min. However, before they do so, they'll take a card from the pile. They mustn't show the card to anyone and as they speak, their task is to use the word from the card in a way that no one notices. After 1 min, the other players guess which word is on the card. The person who guesses the right word wins the card. If no one does, the card goes to the speaker. At the end of the game, the player with most cards is the winner.

10 reasons to love/hate Christmas

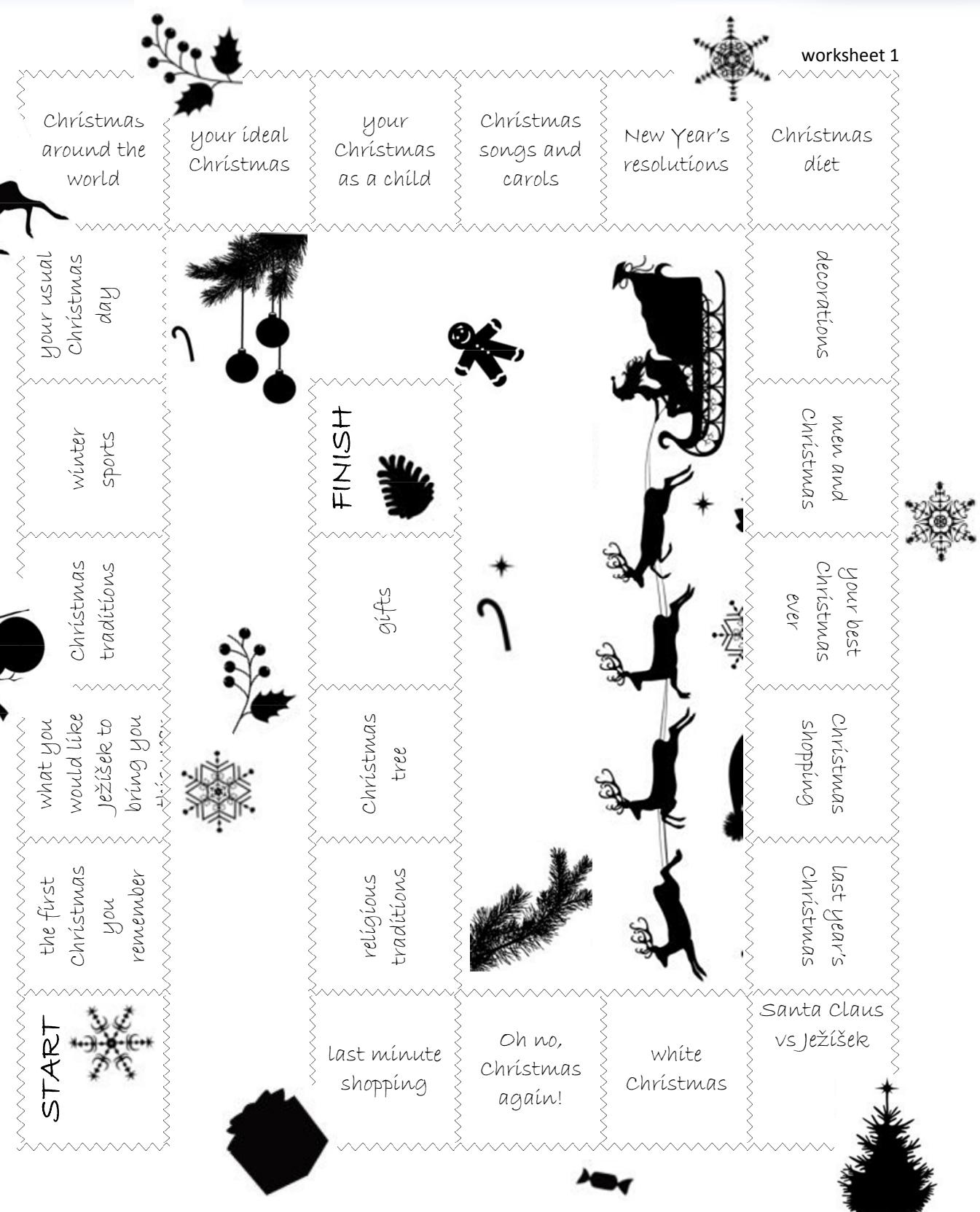
6. Ask your Ss how they generally feel about Christmas. Is it the best time of the year when they can be with their friends and family, or has the commercial aspect prevailed?
7. Explain that they're going to play the part of Santa or Scrooge and their task will be to list as many reasons to love/hate Christmas as possible. Cut cards from worksheet 2 and let them draw their characters (choose whichever pair you think will be suitable for your Ss' level).
8. Put all Santas into one group and all Scrooges into another and give them enough time to prepare their arguments.
9. Then, ask each Santa to find a Scrooge to try and beat them with their arguments. Set a time limit.
10. As feedback, ask your Ss what was the most original/funniest/strongest/... argument they heard from their partners.

A Christmas story

11. Put Ss into groups of 3 or 4 again and give each group a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to write two Christmas-related words, one negative feeling, one positive feeling, two irregular verbs, one personal characteristic and one name. Add a picture from the beginning of the lesson to each sheet.
12. Then the groups swap their papers and their task is to create a Christmas story using all the words (including the pictures) they now have.
13. They tell their stories to the class. At the end, vote for the best story.

Cooler

14. Show the pictures/flashcards from the beginning one by one and ask your Ss what is in them.



EXERCISE	SUCCESSFUL	STEAL	SOLVE	LAPTOP
SIGHT-SEEING	DONKEY	LOOK FORWARD TO	INTERRUPT	MOTIVATE
RICH	SERIOUS	DEADLINE	FASHIONABLE	CAR
FLOOR	FOOTBALL	MIDNIGHT	AMAZING	AUNT
TO BOOK	DELETE	MOUSE	ADVERTISMENT	HUGE
NOTES	TO TEXT	INTERNET	E-MAIL	IMPRESSED
CHECK	MIRACLE	ONLINE	STUFF	BORED

You're Scrooge and
you hate Christmas!



You're Santa and you
love Christmas!



You're Scrooge and
you despise
Christmas!



You're Santa and
you're keen on
Christmas!

