



CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas Story English for children

level: pre-intermediate (A2)+

class: one-to-one

time: 60 min.

skills: speaking, vocabulary, listening

Warm up

1. Show your students the flashcards in worksheet 1, one by one, and let them **guess** what they think **your today's topic** is: 'Christmas'. (You may want to start with the less obvious pictures to make it more challenging.) Explain that some of them may not have an apparent connection to Christmas, but eventually, it will all click into place.
2. Go through the flashcards and name all the items together (snowman, Christmas tree, tinsel/Christmas lights, ice skating, Christmas pudding, turkey/Christmas dinner, dragon, fire).
3. Practise the vocabulary in a **game with a drinking straw**. Name an item in one of the pictures. The student's task is, by inhaling through a straw, to hang onto the correct flashcard as quickly as possible. No hands allowed!

Excitable Edgar the dragon

4. Explain that you're going to watch a **Christmas story**. Play the first 12 seconds of this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPQsip61_o0 and ask the student: 'How do you think the things from the flashcards will fit into the story?'
5. After the student has shared their predictions, watch the whole thing and check if they were correct. Allow for enough time to elicit the correct interpretation and language as the student will need to use both independently in the following activity.
For the summary of the advert plot, see e.g. this link:
<https://inews.co.uk/news/consumer/john-lewis-christmas-advert-2019-excitable-edgar-review-toy-song-singer-when-tv-watch-video-996334>
6. Put the flashcards into correct order as they appeared in the story. The student then **retells the story** using the pictures as an outline. Make sure you give lower-level students enough preparation time.
7. With more advanced students, you may want to let them choose one of the characters (Edgar/Ava/a villager) and tell the story **from their point of view**, including emotions.

Advent calendar story

8. Cut out the inside of a traditional **advent calendar** so that you're able to put inside a piece of paper that will cover the back sheet with the pictures. Prepare a worksheet with blank boxes that correspond with the positions of the windows of the advent calendar. You can use the one in worksheet 2, or you may need a slightly different layout.
9. The student **draws simple pictures** in the boxes to tell a Christmas story of their own. It could be a story of their traditional Christmas Day, a fairy-tale or any other story they can think of. Make sure they keep the correct sequence of pictures. (If a 24-part story is too challenging or time-consuming, reduce the number of boxes.)
10. Put the worksheet inside the advent calendar, **open the windows** one by one and let the student tell you their story.

Cooler

11. Give the student a **time limit** of 1 minute. How many words from the flashcards can they remember and write down?