

Christmas in the UK

Christmas Eve - December 24th

The day before Christmas is a busy day for many British people. This is the day Christmas preparations must be completed. In the **lead up to** Christmas, shops and malls are open later than usual, so many people do their **last minute** Christmas shopping in the evening. At home, the food for Christmas Day has to be got ready, and any remaining presents must be **wrapped** and put under the Christmas tree. When everything is done, some people watch TV or play games as a family, others go to the **pub**. Before going to bed, we leave out **stockings** as well as carrots and **mince pies** for Santa and his **reindeers**. Mince pies are made from **pastry**, dried fruits and spices.



Christmas Day - December 25th

Christmas is a day for the family to spend time together. In the morning, children wake up their parents early to go to the living room together and exchange presents. In the morning, the family can enjoy their new presents and relax together, perhaps by watching a movie. At lunch time, we have a Christmas dinner. Many people visit their extended family for this dinner, but some stay home. Traditional Christmas dinner in the UK is roast **turkey**, potatoes, vegetables, gravy, **cranberry** sauce, **pigs in blankets** and bread sauce. Bread sauce is made from milk, butter, onions, cream and breadcrumbs. Pigs in blankets are small sausages wrapped in bacon.



Boxing Day - December 26th

Boxing Day is a day of recovery and relaxation for many. Any **leftovers** from Christmas dinner can be eaten on this day, so there isn't a lot of work to be done. In some areas, it is traditional to go for a morning swim in the sea. Like Japan, the UK is in the **Northern Hemisphere**, so it is extremely cold! This day is actually a national holiday in the UK, so a lot of shops and businesses are closed but some are open for Boxing Day sales. Many families stay home and play games or watch movies on TV together. There are also often professional football matches played on this day.



Word bank

Lead up to - ～までの間

pub - パブ「イギリスのバー」

reindeer - トナカイ

Cranberry - クランベリー

last minute - 直前の～

Stocking - ストッキング

pastry - 菓子

leftovers - 残り物

to wrap - ～を包む

mince pies - [ミンスパイ](#)

turkey - 七面鳥

Northern Hemisphere - 北半球