

# Christmas presents with a difference

## Teacher's notes

Merry Christmas teachers!

This Christmas lesson is based on a [2020 Commercial](#) from the American telecommunications company Xfinity and features Steve Carrell as Santa Claus.

The video combines the themes of Christmas and the pandemic, both still relevant in 2021! It's humorous and vocabulary rich, both in terms of its Christmas vocabulary and the phrasal verbs and other idiomatic language in the script. As well as This lesson is designed for students of a B2 level and above.

## A Zoom call with a difference

You are going to [watch a video](#) about Santa Claus' preparations for Christmas. Look at these pictures:



1. What do you think the newspaper headline could be? Give reasons for your answer.  
*Students' own answers*
2. Watch until 1:00 to check your answer  
*Santa out of ideas*

## What would you suggest?

3. Santa and his elves need to think of some special gifts this year. What would you suggest for them?  
*Students' own answers*
4. Watch the rest of the video. What special gifts did they decide on?  
*They decided to make Christmas presents out of family moments (see below for detail)*

## Family moments



5. Match up 'the family moments that make the holidays' with the pictures  
*Family snowball fight c      Auntie's cheek squeezes d      Adopt a furry friend b*  
*Smell of Grandma's cooking e      Grandpa's same old stories a*

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6. Which of these moments are or have been part of your Christmas? Give details.

*Students' own answers*

7. What other things happen in your family over Christmas time that make Christmas special? *Students' own answers*

## What did they say?

8. Look at the transcript below for the video you watched. Can you remember any of the words or phrases from the video? What sort of word do you need for each of the gaps? Discuss in pairs.

*Students' own answers*

9. Watch the video again to fill in the gaps. Work in pairs: one of you fills in the even numbers and one of you fills in the odd numbers. When you've finished, try to fill in all the gaps together.

**ELF 1:** Hey 1. honey, it's the boss.

**ELF 2:** Oh, hi Santa.

**SANTA:** Ho Ho Ho Ho good morning every...Ya know what? I can't even 2. fake it. Look, after the year we just had, the usual gifts are just not going to 3. cut it. So we have to find something else, and fast. That's all, 4. Figure it out, good luck!

**ELF 3:** What does that mean?

**ELF 4:** We are 5. doomed.

**SANTA:** What do you think?

**SANTA'S WIFE:** 6. Not great.

**SANTA:** I should've thought about that before I said it.

**ELF 5:** Sorry, it's 7. old habit.

**ELF 6:** Elf Shopping Network.

**ELF 7:** Everyone wants a giant jumbo 8. jingle bell.

**ELVES 7+8:** No.

**ELF 9:** That's it. I give you 9. togetherness. I figured it out! We're going to gift the 10. holiday spirit.

**SANTA:** That sounds 11. dumb.

**ELF 9:** No, Santa, we're going to take all those family moments that make the holidays and 12. package them!

**SANTA:** I don't think it's going to work.

**ELF 9:** Oh, it'll work.

**SANTA:** I don't think it will.

**AUNTIE:** Oh, you are getting so big! Woahh!

**SANTA:** I'm not going to lie, it's a little 13. stressful.

**GRANDPA:** And that's why you shouldn't cook a 14. turkey in the dryer.

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**ELF 9:** It's the 15. **ultimate gift** \_\_\_\_\_.

**SANTA:** I just don't see it working.

**SANTA'S WIFE:** What's that honey?

**SANTA:** No, no, don't.

**SANTA:** It's 16. **down to the wire** \_\_\_\_\_. The team's been working 17. **around the clock** \_\_\_\_\_. We've had to 18. **rethink** \_\_\_\_\_ our whole approach. I'm not sure it's going to work.

**SANTA'S WIFE:** It'll work.

**SANTA:** I didn't know you were listening.

**ELF 10:** Sorry!

**SANTA:** [ Laughing ] That works!

This year has been harder than ever and yet, somehow you all found a way to 19. **pull it off** \_\_\_\_\_.

You reminded us it's not about the 20. **toys or the ornaments** \_\_\_\_\_. It's about 21. **the little things** \_\_\_\_\_.

**ELF 11:** Santa, Santa, you're 22. **on mute** \_\_\_\_\_.

**SANTA** [ Laughing ] I just wanted to say thanks, thanks for believing.

## What do they mean?

10. Match one of your answers above to the following definitions:

1. Meet expectations or requirements \_\_\_\_\_ **cut it** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Put them in a box \_\_\_\_\_ **package them** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Stupid \_\_\_\_\_ **dumb** \_\_\_\_\_
4. In big trouble / bound to fail \_\_\_\_\_ **doomed** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pretend \_\_\_\_\_ **fake it** \_\_\_\_\_
6. Succeed in doing something difficult \_\_\_\_\_ **pull it off** \_\_\_\_\_
7. 24/7 \_\_\_\_\_ **around the clock** \_\_\_\_\_
8. Not decided until the last minute \_\_\_\_\_ **down to the wire** \_\_\_\_\_
9. The perfect present \_\_\_\_\_ **the ultimate gift** \_\_\_\_\_
10. Work it out \_\_\_\_\_ **figure it out** \_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking to finish

11. Discuss the following questions in pairs and share with the class:

*Students' own answers*

1. What would be your **ultimate Christmas gift**?
2. Have you ever bought a present for someone that didn't **cut it**?
3. Have you ever **faked it**, pretending you liked a present that you didn't?
4. Do you find yourself **working around the clock** or do you make time to relax?
5. What are '**the little things**' in life that you enjoy?