

Adverbs of Frequency Xmas Traditions- Answer key and hints

The parts in brackets after each sentence are possible hints you can give if the teams ask for them.

In Britain, Xmas pudding is almost always served hot (It is steamed and served with hot brandy sauce) (A few people might not have the time or the equipment to heat it up)

Japanese shopping centres almost always take their Xmas decorations down on Xmas Day. (They want to put their traditional New Year decorations up as soon as possible).

British people usually cook turkey for Xmas (There are quite a few vegetarians, but few families are all vegetarian)

Australians usually eat outside on Xmas Day. (December is the Australian summer) (Some parts of Australia are not always warm enough to eat outside in December)

British children often put out a glass of sherry and mince pie on Xmas Eve. (This is for Father Christmas to eat and drink when he arrives).

British people sometimes put a coin in the Xmas pudding (This is a traditional practice that gives good luck to the person who finds it, but is only possible with a homemade pudding)

British people sometimes go to church on Christmas day (Going to church is not very common in the UK nowadays, but Xmas is one of the most popular times along with weddings and funerals)

British people sometimes listen to the Queen's speech on Xmas Day (Most people want to know what the Queen says, but the highlights are also played on the evening news)

British people sometimes use the expression "Santa" or "Santa Claus" (Father Christmas is the traditional name for this character, but the American name is becoming more popular)

British people sometimes put presents in stockings (this is usually only used for some smaller presents for children, all the other big presents and all the presents for adults go under the Xmas tree)

British kids don't often go carolling (standing outside people's houses singing Xmas songs). (It's too dangerous nowadays for kids to go out in the evening on their own. It is a little bit more common to go carolling outside the houses of people you know, but even then it is usually a mixture of adults and children.)

British people don't often invite friends round for Xmas dinner. (Xmas is usually just a family affair, but long term boyfriends and girlfriends who are considered part of the family might be invited.)

It hardly ever snows in London on Xmas Day. (The weather is much warmer now than it used to be in the winter)

British people hardly ever eat out on Xmas day (Xmas is generally considered a day for staying at home with your family)

British people hardly ever decorate the outside of their houses with Xmas decorations such as fake snow on the roof and life sized figures of Santa. (Showing off is not considered a very British thing to do) (A few lights in the window is much more common)

British people almost never have fireworks on Xmas Day (November the 5th is the most popular time for fireworks, with some cities having fireworks at midnight on New Year's Eve too).

There is almost never fog in London on Xmas Day. (The fog in Victorian times that you see in Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes films was actually smog from the factories in London)

British people almost never leave their Xmas decorations up until 12 January (It is considered bad luck to leave your decorations up after the 6th January)

British Xmas trees almost never have a Santa Claus on the top (A star or an angel are traditional).

Trains never run on Xmas Day in the UK (Xmas is the biggest holiday of the year)

It never snows on Xmas Day in South Africa, New Zealand, Australia (it is summer in December).

British people never have a fresh cream Xmas cake (Fresh cream and fresh fruits are summer foods in the UK)

Additional hints to give if the students are getting very stuck:

- *The sentences are already in order of frequency, with the most frequent at the top.*
- *The adverbs of frequency used are: Almost always, usually, often, sometimes, not often, hardly ever, almost never, and never.*