

### Christmas and New Year Past Tenses Mimes

*Choose one of the actions below and mime it for your partner. Whenever they think they know which one you are miming you should stop the action and they should say what you were doing:*

You were visiting people

You were shopping

You were doing a spring clean

You were watching a movie

You were skating

You were skiing

You were sledging

You were cracking nuts

You were carving meat

You were eating sweets

You were decorating your house

You were opening a gift

You were ripping the wrapping paper off a gift

You were writing cards

You were praying

You were putting on a hat

You were singing Xmas songs

You were playing a musical instrument

It was snowing

You were opening a bottle of champagne

You were cutting a cake into slices

You were pouring gravy on your dinner

You were putting some meat into the oven

You were lighting a firework

You were working

You were travelling by train

You were dressing up in a Santa Claus costume

You were kissing someone on the cheek

You were putting gifts into a stocking (= a sock)

You were putting gifts into a shoe

You were eating a fish

You were lighting candles.

You were putting decorations on a cake.

*Continue the same game, but with the person guessing the sentence not looking at the list above*

*Continue, but with other Xmas actions*

I have done this once or twice.

*Choose one of the things above and give your partner clues about which one you are thinking about by telling them about you and that thing in the past, e.g. "I have done this once or twice" "I didn't do this last Xmas" "I last did this 3 weeks ago"*

*Continue, but with other things you typically do at Xmas.*

*Why do we use the Past Continuous ("You were kissing people" = was/were + ing) for the mimes, but the Present Perfect ("I have never kissed someone on Xmas Day" = has/ have + past participle) and the Simple Past ("I last kissed someone 10 minutes ago" = single verb, followed by +ed when regular) for the other statements.*

*Which tense above is used with each of the following time clauses?*

2 years ago

Twice (in my life)

At this time last year

When my mother came in and interrupted me

On Xmas Day

When the clock struck 12