



British Traditions- Used to Practice

Do you think the things below are common present habits in the UK or just in the past? Choose one and make a sentence about how popular you think that is now and how that has changed, then your teacher will tell you how accurate that statement is.

- Buying a live goose or rabbit and feeding it up during December to kill it for Xmas.
- Keeping a Xmas pudding for up to 12 months so that the taste becomes richer.
- Putting stockings in front of the fireplace.
- Cooking a whole turkey.
- All public transport stopping on Xmas Day.
- Shop closing on Xmas Day.
- People sitting down to watch the Queen giving a speech on Xmas Day.
- Putting a special "Yule log" (= piece of wood) on the fire.
- Saying "Merry Christmas".
- Going to church on Xmas Day.
- Going to midnight mass (= a special church service on the night of Xmas Eve).
- Spending Xmas Day with their families.
- Sleeping outside shops to get the best bargains in the January sales.
- January sales starting in January.
- Children going caroling (= go from house to house singing Xmas songs).
- Xmas dinner being made from winter foods that are easy to preserve without a fridge.
- Saying "Father Christmas" instead of "Santa/ Santa Claus".
- Buying real Xmas trees.

How about these things about the UK more generally?

- Fog in London
- Wearing bowler hats
- Football hooliganism
- Drinking lots of tea
- Having high tea (= tea and cakes or scones at three o'clock)
- Fox hunting
- Being able to know someone's social class from how they speak
- Eating fish and chips
- Few "English restaurants"
- Bad food
- Drinking warm beer
- Being polite
- Being reserved (= not showing your real feelings)
- Rarely speaking foreign languages
- Playing cricket
- Eating a Sunday roast (for example roast beef and roast potatoes)
- Watching fireworks on the fifth of November
- Disliking garlic
- Brick houses
- Gardening
- DIY (= do it yourself, decorating and fixing your own house)
- English breakfast
- Traditional dancing

How about similar things in your country?