

'Tis the season of Christmas markets!

'Tis the season of the year to be jolly. Christmas is on its way. So why not get into the swing of Christmas and visit a traditional Christmas market? The magic of them will soon put you under their spell. All over continental Europe you'll find them. In recent years they have become more and more popular, probably because of the festive seasonal atmosphere they evoke. Their traditional wooden chalets are full of everything you'll need to prepare for the perfect Christmas. Christmas markets originate from what is Germany today. Here they are unique. They offer visitors the chance to buy many different forms of merchandise including wooden carvings, toys, candles, decorated mugs and Christmas decorations. Visitors can enjoy roast chestnuts and grilled bratwurst sausages or munch some gingerbread biscuits (Lebkuchen), marzipan figures and other such sweets. One can even try some German hot mulled wine (Glühwein).

Christmas markets to visit in Germany include Berlin, Trier, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Koln. Other continental Christmas markets include Brussels, Luxembourg, Metz and Strasbourg. In France Christmas markets are known as *Marché de Noël*. Traditional Swiss Christmas markets include Bern, Zurich and Basel. In the heart of Europe Christmas markets can be found in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest. In Northern Europe Tallinn in Estonia, Oslo in Norway or Stockholm in Sweden. In England Christmas markets have mushroomed. Popular English ones with a continental feel include; the Cologne Christmas Market at the Southbank Centre or the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, both of which are in London. Similar Christmas markets include the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market, the Canterbury Traditional Christmas Market or the Leeds Christkindelmarkt Traditional Christmas market. Victorian Christmas markets have also become popular. Also known as Dickensian markets these can be seen in Portsmouth, Ripon, Bury St Edmunds, and Wrexham. Caerphilly in Wales hosts a medieval Christmas market! Enjoy. Happy Christmas!

Category: Lifestyle / Christmas / Christmas markets
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

EXERCISES

1. Christmas markets: What are Christmas markets? Where do they originate from? Think of three other things about Christmas markets. Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to visit a Christmas market?

6. Let's think! Christmas markets: Think of five different Christmas market gifts. Add five different Christmas market foods and drinks. Write them below. Discuss them and compare lists with your partner. Which do you like to buy? Which do you like to eat and drink?

Five Christmas market gifts	Five Christmas market foods/drinks
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's talk! At a Christmas market: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Imagine you are at a Christmas market. One of you is **either** buying some gifts for Christmas **or** is buying some food and drink to consume. The other is the market trader selling them. The buyer should barter. Maybe haggle over the price. The seller should give some traditional market sales talk. Swap roles! The buyer should then move round to another Christmas market stall. Find yourself something new. Try to add some fun into the situation. *5-10 minutes.*

8. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think Christmas is fun. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

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9. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name three things you can buy as presents at a German Christmas market.
- 2) Where do Christmas markets originate from?
- 3) What is in Caerphilly?
- 4) Name three types of English Christmas market.
- 5) Where in Northern Europe can you visit a Christmas market?

Student B

- 1) What is Lebkuchen?
- 2) What is Glühwein?
- 3) Name three English Christmas markets.
- 4) Where in the heart of Europe will you find Xmas markets?
- 5) Name three continental Christmas markets (not in Germany)

10. Let's talk! Christmas markets: In pairs. Imagine you are in a pub. Over a drink discuss Christmas markets. Which are your favourite? Why? What did you buy? Which you would like to visit? Try to make it light hearted. 5-minutes.

11. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **Christmas markets** as you can. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about a visit to a **Christmas market** you made recently. (Imagine!) Your e-mail can be read out in class.

13. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) Christmas markets _____

b) Wooden chalets _____

c) Victorian _____

14. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on **Christmas markets**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

15. Let's chat! In pairs: One of you is speaking on your mobile **or** computer to your friend on Skype in another country. You are telling them all about the Christmas markets near you. The other then chats about the ones near them. How do they compare?

16. Quickfire! In a group in a circle. The teacher asks the class, "**I love Christmas because...**"

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DISCUSSION

Student A's questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What is your favourite Christmas market?
- 3) What advice would you give anyone visiting a Christmas market for the first time?
- 4) Why are Christmas markets so popular?
- 5) Why do you like Christmas markets?
- 6) Why are continental Christmas markets so popular now in mainland Britain?
- 7) Why are Victorian Christmas markets so popular now in England?
- 8) Why are Christmas markets in Britain called Dickensian?
- 9) Will you experience a white Christmas?
- 10) What do you want for Christmas?

Student B's questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What do you think of Christmas markets?
- 3) What might you buy your family as a gift at a Christmas market?
- 4) What is the most unusual gift you might buy at a Christmas market?
- 5) Where is the biggest Christmas market?
- 6) Which is the best Christmas market?
- 7) Who do you go to the Christmas market with?
- 8) Would you consider going on a Christmas market weekend away?
- 9) What do you like to eat at a Christmas market?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's play a game! Christmas markets

Allow 10 minutes

Form a circle or go round the room in a clockwise direction.

"I went to a Christmas market and I bought ..."

The idea of the game is that each person has to remember what was previously said then add one more gift, drink or food product. The list will therefore get longer and longer.

When a student cannot remember the order or cannot think of a gift, drink or food product they are 'eliminated'! The winner is the one at the end not eliminated!

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

'Tis the season of Christmas markets!

'Tis the season of the year to be _____. Christmas is on its way. So why not get into the swing of _____ and visit a traditional Christmas market? The magic of them will soon put you under their spell. All over _____ Europe you'll find them. In recent years they have become more and more popular, probably because of the _____ seasonal atmosphere they evoke. Their traditional wooden _____ are full of everything you'll need to prepare for the perfect Christmas. Christmas _____ originate from what is Germany today. Here they are unique. They offer visitors the chance to buy many different forms of merchandise including wooden carvings, toys, candles, decorated _____ and Christmas decorations. Visitors can enjoy roast chestnuts and grilled bratwurst sausages or _____ some gingerbread biscuits (Lebkuchen), marzipan figures and other such sweets. One can even try some German hot mulled wine (Glühwein).

munch

markets

Christmas

festive

continental

mugs

chalets

jolly

Christmas markets to visit in Germany include Berlin, Trier, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Köln. Other continental Christmas markets include Brussels, Luxembourg, Metz and Strasbourg. In France Christmas markets are known as *Marché de Noël*. Traditional Swiss Christmas markets include Bern, Zurich and Basel. In the heart of Europe Christmas markets can be found in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest. In Northern Europe Tallinn in Estonia, Oslo in Norway or Stockholm in Sweden. In England Christmas markets have _____. Popular English ones with a continental feel include; the Cologne Christmas Market at the Southbank Centre or the Hyde Park _____ Wonderland, both of which are in London. _____ Christmas markets include the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market, the Canterbury Traditional Christmas Market or the Leeds Christkindelmarkt _____ Christmas market. _____ Christmas markets have also become _____. Also known as _____ markets these can be seen in Portsmouth, Ripon, Bury St Edmunds, and Wrexham. Caerphilly in Wales hosts a _____ Christmas market! Enjoy. Happy Christmas!

Victorian

popular

traditional

Dickensian

winter

similar

medieval

mushroomed

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PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

- () Wrexham. Caerphilly in Wales hosts a medieval Christmas market! Enjoy. Happy Christmas!
- () for the perfect Christmas. Christmas markets originate from what is Germany today. Here they are unique. They offer visitors the chance to buy many different forms of merchandise including wooden carvings, toys,
- () Cologne Christmas Market at the Southbank Centre or the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, both of which are in London. Similar Christmas markets include the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market, the Canterbury Traditional Christmas Market or the
- () Bratislava and Budapest. In Northern Europe Tallinn in Estonia, Oslo in Norway or Stockholm in Sweden. In England Christmas markets have mushroomed. Popular English ones with a continental feel include; the
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GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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'Tis the season of the year to be jolly. Christmas is on its way. So why not get (1)___ the swing of Christmas and visit a traditional Christmas market? The magic of (2)___ will soon put you under their spell. All over continental Europe you'll find them. In recent years they have become (3)___ and more popular, probably because of the festive seasonal atmosphere they evoke. (4)___ traditional wooden chalets are full of everything you'll need to prepare for the perfect Christmas. Christmas markets originate from (5)___ is Germany today. Here they are unique. They offer visitors the chance to buy many different forms of merchandise including wooden carvings, toys, candles, decorated mugs and Christmas decorations. Visitors can enjoy roast chestnuts and grilled bratwurst sausages or munch (6)___ gingerbread biscuits (Lebkuchen), marzipan figures and other (7)___ sweets. One can (8)___ try some German hot mulled wine (Glühwein).

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	similar	11	gingerbread
2	Dickensian	12	marzipan
3	Christmas	13	chalet
4	merchandise	14	unique
5	evoke	15	atmosphere
6	popular	16	decorations
7	Victorian	17	originate
8	medieval	18	'Tis
9	continental	19	traditional
10	Tallinn	20	jolly

LINKS

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/>
<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/UK.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_market
<http://www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk/>
<http://www.bratislavaguide.com/christmas-markets>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: 'Tis the season of Christmas markets! 'Tis the season of the year to be **jolly**. Christmas is on its way. So why not get into the swing of **Christmas** and visit a traditional Christmas market? The magic of them will soon put you under their spell. All over **continental** Europe you'll find them. In recent years they have become more and more popular, probably because of the **festive** seasonal atmosphere they evoke. Their traditional wooden **chalets** are full of everything you'll need to prepare for the perfect Christmas. Christmas **markets** originate from what is Germany today. Here they are unique. They offer visitors the chance to buy many different forms of merchandise including wooden carvings, toys, candles, decorated **mugs** and Christmas decorations. Visitors can enjoy roast chestnuts and grilled bratwurst sausages or **munch** some gingerbread biscuits (Lebkuchen), marzipan figures and other such sweets. One can even try some German hot mulled wine (Glühwein). Christmas markets to visit in Germany include Berlin, Trier, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and Köln. Other continental Christmas markets include Brussels, Luxembourg, Metz and Strasbourg. In France Christmas markets are known as *Marché de Noël*. Traditional Swiss Christmas markets include Bern, Zurich and Basel. In the heart of Europe Christmas markets can be found in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest. In Northern Europe Tallinn in Estonia, Oslo in Norway or Stockholm in Sweden. In England Christmas markets have **mushroomed**. Popular English ones with a continental feel include; the Cologne Christmas Market at the Southbank Centre or the Hyde Park **Winter** Wonderland, both of which are in London. **Similar** Christmas markets include the Birmingham Frankfurt Christmas market, the Canterbury Traditional Christmas Market or the Leeds Christkindelmarkt **Traditional** Christmas market. **Victorian** Christmas markets have also become **popular**. Also known as **Dickensian** markets these can be seen in Portsmouth, Ripon, Bury St Edmunds, and Wrexham. Caerphilly in Wales hosts a **medieval** Christmas market! Enjoy. Happy Christmas! (This is a remodelled lesson from 2009) **(V1)**

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