‘Tis the season of Christmas markets!

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

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EXERCISES


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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five Christmas market gifts</th>
<th>Five Christmas market foods/drinks</th>
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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.

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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.

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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

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<td>10</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
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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.bratislava-guide.com/christmas-markets

ANSWERS

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