



The Christmas Connection

Vocabulary for talking about
Christmas and Connecting ideas

November 29th, 2024

Outline

Black Friday

Vocabulary
Contrasting Ideas

Christmas Vocabulary 1

Vocabulary
Expressing Outcomes

Christmas Vocabulary 2

Vocabulary
Explaining Causes

Christmas Vocabulary 3

Vocabulary
Adding information

Resources

Sequencing Information

Black Friday





Rebajas

Tienda física

Ganga

Descuentos y Ofertas
(dos por uno, compra uno y
llévate otro gratis.)

Engaño

Remordimiento del
comprador

Sales



Brick-and-mortar store

Bargain

**Discounts and Special Offers
(2 for 1, buy one get one
free)**

Scam

**Buyer's
remorse**



What do you think?

1. Last year, US consumers spent 9.8 billion dollars on Black Friday. Do you think that is predicted to increase or decrease this year?
2. The US population is about 340 million people. How many people do you think shopped in the US on Black Friday in 2023? What % of those shopped in bricks and mortar stores?
3. Which company accounted for 17.7% of all **online** Black Friday purchases last year?
4. What percentage of gen Z shoppers regretted their 2023 Black Friday purchases?
5. What percentage of people think Black Friday is a scam?



Black Friday Sales Increase Despite Scepticism

Although Black Friday sales are increasing, a surprising statistic reveals that well over half of buyers (62%) believe the event is a scam.

Nevertheless, this scepticism has not hurt the projected sales for Black Friday 2024, which are expected to grow to nearly \$10 billion. This is in spite of the fact that the majority of American's believe that the economy is in bad shape.

Last year 196.7 million Americans participated in Black Friday sales. **However**, only 39% of those looked for bargains in brick and mortar stores **as opposed to** shopping online.

In fact, Amazon accounted for over 17.7% of all Black Friday sales last year, **even though** the online retailer has recently faced criticism for counterfeit items and price increases.

Unsurprisingly, shopping habits varied across the generations with baby boomers being the most likely to shop in store and to be happy with their purchases.

This is **in contrast to** Gen Z, 60% of whom had buyers remorse regarding their 2023 Black Friday purchases. This remorse comes **despite** the fact that 84% of Gen Z believe the sales genuinely offer good value.

1. Last year, US consumers spent 9.8 billion dollars on Black Friday. Do you think that is predicted to increase or decrease this year?

Increase

2. The US population is about 340 million people. How many people do you think shopped in the US on Black Friday in 2023? What % of those shopped in bricks and mortar stores?

39%

3. Which company accounted for 17.7% of all online Black Friday purchases last year?

Amazon

4. What percentage of gen Z shoppers regretted their 2023 Black Friday purchases?

60%

5. What percentage of people think Black Friday is a scam? **62%**



Let's look at the grammar:

Contrasting ideas



Although Black Friday sales volumes are increasing, 62% of buyers believe the event is a scam.

Lots of people shopped in Amazon **even though** it has recently faced criticism for counterfeit items and price increases.

Let's look at the grammar:

Although / Even though

Although + subject + verb

Even though + subject + verb



Let's look at the grammar:

Although / Even though Translation

Aunque los descuentos son buenos,
no pienso madrugar para ir de
compras.

Although the discounts are great,
I'm not waking up early to shop.

Aunque el árbol de Navidad es artificial, huele a pino gracias al ambientador.

Although the Xmas tree is fake, it smells like pine thanks to the air freshener.

Llevo el jersey navideño aunque es feo.

I wear the Christmas sweater, even though it's ugly.

Sigo tomando helado en invierno, aunque hace frío.

I keep eating ice-cream in winter, even though it's cold.



Let's look at the grammar:

Contrasting ideas

This remorse comes **despite** the fact that 84% of Gen Z believe the sales genuinely offer good value.

In spite of believing that the sales offer good value, 60% of Gen Z regretted their Black Friday purchases.

Let's look at the grammar:

Despite / In spite of

Despite/In spite of + noun, gerund or a pronoun

Despite/In spite of + the fact that + subject + verb

Let's look at the grammar:

Despite / In spite of Translation

Compré un jersey con luces y sonido, a pesar de que me hace parecer un árbol de Navidad andante.

I bought a sweater with lights and sound, in spite of **it** making me look like a walking Christmas tree.

A pesar de que soy inglesa, estoy a cargo de cocinar la cena de Navidad
In spite of the fact that **I'm English**, I'm in charge of cooking Christmas dinner.

A pesar de no tener espacio, compré un árbol de Navidad gigante
Despite not **having** space, I bought a giant Christmas tree.

Bebí un chocolate caliente a pesar de la dieta,
I drank a hot chocolate, despite **my diet**.



Let's look at the grammar:

Contrasting ideas

Last year 196.7 million Americans participated in Black Friday sales. **However**, only 39% of those looked for bargains in brick and mortar stores

Nevertheless, this scepticism has not hurt the projected sales

Let's look at the grammar:

However / Nevertheless

Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Spain. **Nevertheless**, Black Friday is becoming more and more popular.

I love Christmas. **However**, I'm not particularly religious.

I recognise that it's quite a commercial festival; **nevertheless**, I really enjoy Christmas.

Let's look at the grammar:

However / Nevertheless Translation

Quería comprar regalo imaginativos;
sin embargo, terminé comprando
calcetines para todos.

I wanted to buy imaginative presents,
however, I ended up buying everyone
socks.

El pavo se quemó; sin embargo, todos disfrutaron la cena de Navidad.

The turkey got burned, nevertheless, everyone enjoyed Christmas dinner.

A nadie le gustan las frutas confitadas, sin embargo, siempre están en un
roscón de Reyes

Nobody likes candied fruit, nevertheless, it's always on a roscón de reyes

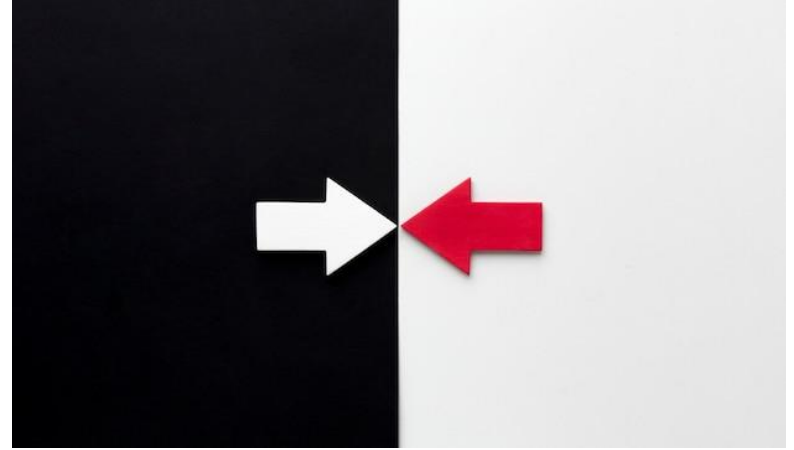
La comida española es genial. Los polvorones, sin embargo,
son una excepción.

Spanish food is great. Polverones, however, are an exception.



Let's look at the grammar:

Contrasting ideas

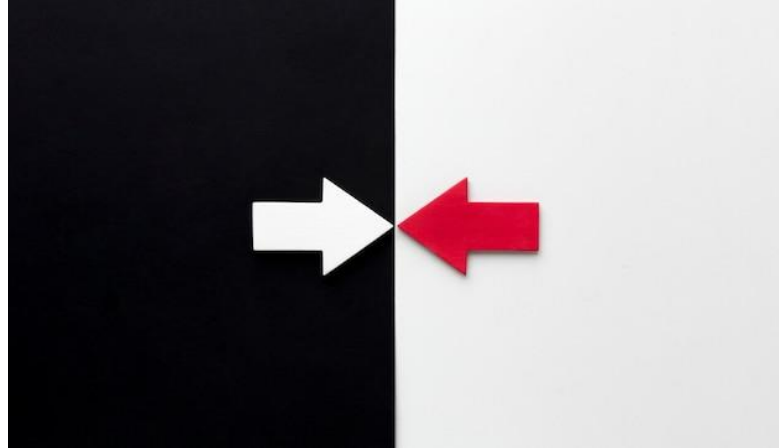


39% of people looked for bargains in brick and mortar stores **as opposed to** shopping online.

Baby boomers were generally happy with their purchases **in contrast to** Gen Z who often had buyer's remorse.

Let's look at the grammar:

Contrasting ideas



Idea number 1+ **as opposed to** + idea number 2

(**as opposed to** = instead of)

Idea number 1 + **in contrast to** + idea number 2

(**in contrast to** = unlike / different to)

Let's look at the grammar:

as opposed to / in contrast to
Translation

Están planeando comprar regalos este año **en lugar de** hacerlos.

They're planning to buy gifts this year as opposed to making them

Planeo comerme todo el pastel de Navidad **en lugar de** compartirlo como debería.

I'm planning on eating the entire Christmas cake **as opposed to** sharing it like I'm supposed to.

Yo digo "Feliz Navidad" **en contraste con** mi jefe que dice "paparuchas!"

I say "Merry Christmas" in contrast to my boss who says "bah humbug!"

Voy a echarme una siesta esta tarde **en contraste con** todos los demás que están decorando la casa.

I'll be taking a nap / siesta this afternoon in contrast to everyone else, who will be decorating the house.

Nearly Finished....



On the one hand....
but on the other hand



1. On the one hand, winter brings beautiful snowy landscapes and cozy evenings at home. **On the other hand**, it can be very cold and difficult to get around because of the snow and ice.

2. On the one hand, Christmas is a time for family gatherings and joyful celebrations. **On the other hand**, it can also be stressful because of the pressure to buy gifts and prepare meals.

3. On the one hand, I hate the hassle of shopping in brick and mortar stores, but, **on the other hand**, I think it's important to support small businesses and buy locally.

Quiz

On the one hand, I'd love to go away somewhere warm and sunny at Christmas, but, on the other hand...



- a. there are some really cheap flights
- b. my kids love the idea too!
- c. sunny weather wouldn't feel very Christmassy

Answer



On the one hand, I'd love to go away somewhere warm and sunny at Christmas, **but, on the other hand...**

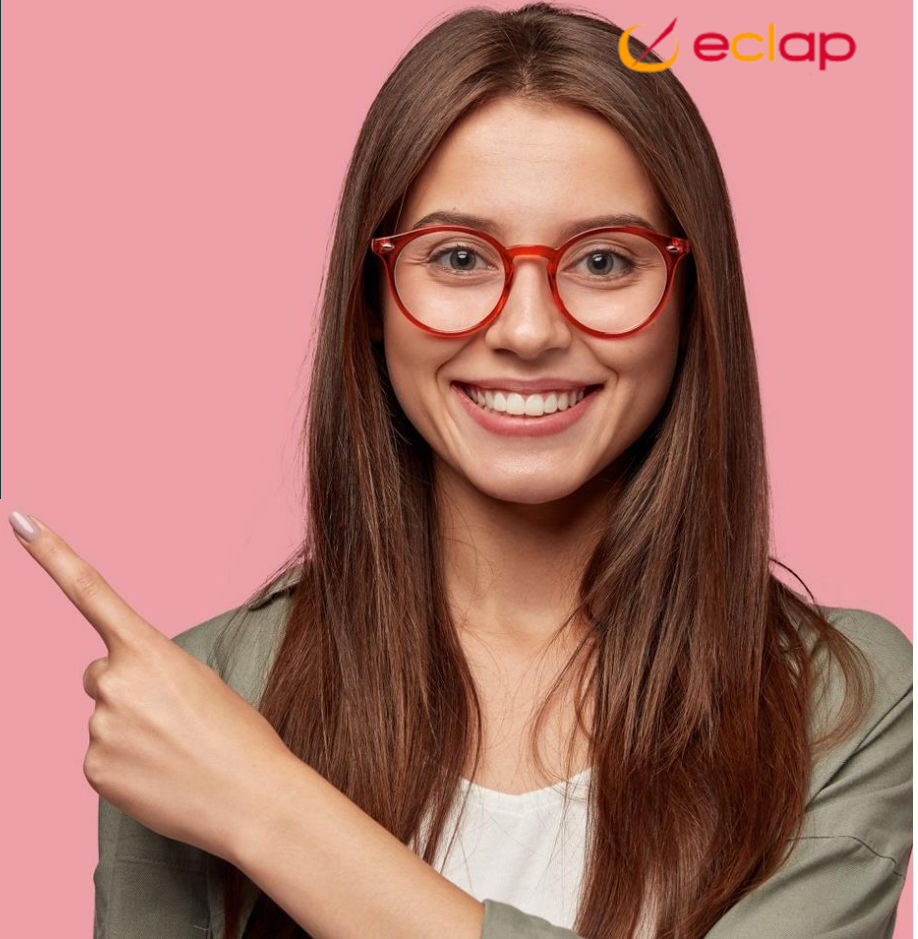
a. there are some really cheap flights

b. my kids love the idea too!

c. **sunny weather wouldn't feel very Christmassy**



Christmas Origins



Christmas tree
mistletoe
holly



1. Christmas trees, Holly and Mistletoe are evergreen and **therefore** (they) symbolise eternal life, renewal and hope. (vida eterna, renovación y esperanza)

2. Christmas trees, Holly and Mistletoe were used by pagans to celebrate their festivals and **as a result** (they) were incorporated into Christian traditions.

3. Holly has red berries and spikey leaves and **consequently** (it) was used to represent the crown of thorns and Christ's blood.

4. Mistletoe is associated with fertility and **that is why**, people kiss under it at Christmas.

Expressing a Result

Me compré un regalo, **por lo tanto**, no necesito que nadie más me compre uno.

I bought myself a gift, **therefore** I don't need anyone else to get me one

Bebí demasiado jerez, **en consecuencia**, ahora estoy echando una siesta debajo del árbol de Navidad.

I drank too much sherry, **consequently**, I'm now napping under the tree.

Comé cinco kilos de turrón y **por eso** ya no me entro en los vaqueros

I ate 5 kilos of turrón and **that's why** my jeans don't fit anymore.

Mi hija está cantando "Let it go" muy fuerte y **como resultado**, ninguno de mis vecinos me está hablando.

My daughter is singing "Let it go" loudly and **as a result**, none of my neighbours are talking to me.

**Santa
reindeer
sleigh**



**fireplace
presents
stocking**



1. The tradition of Sinterklaas (later **Santa Claus**) was introduced to America **because of** Dutch settlers in the 18th century.
2. **Santa Claus's** modern image (with **reindeer** and a **sleigh**) evolved **due to** the influence of Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas*.
3. The tradition of hanging **stockings** by the **fireplace** is **on account of** the legend of Saint Nicholas secretly throwing gold into **stockings** hanging by the **fireplace** to help a poor family.
4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed **Reindeer** became a key part of Christmas folklore **thanks to** a 1939 story created by Robert L. May, followed by the popular 1949 song.

Expressing a Cause

Como resultado de mis compras navideñas, comeré fideos instantáneos durante el próximo mes.

As a result of / On account of my Christmas shopping, I'll be eating instant noodles for the next month.

Gracias al muérdago, ¡mi vecino feo acaba de darme un beso!

Thanks to the mistletoe, my ugly neighbor just gave me a kiss!

Mi casa puede ser vista desde el espacio **debido a** mis excesivas luces de Navidad.

My house can be seen from space **due to** my excessive Christmas lights.

Estoy evitando mi báscula como la peste **por** el *turrongate*.

I'm avoiding my scales like the plague **because of** turrongate.



Reindeer

Santa Claus

Sleigh

Holly

Mistletoe

Fireplace

Stocking

Present

Christmas tree



All I want for Christmas is you

Which word from the
list, **doesn't** appear
in the song?





Reindeer

Santa Claus

Sleigh

Holly

Mistletoe

Fireplace

Stocking

Present

Christmas tree



I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need (And I)
Don't care about the **presents**
Underneath the **Christmas tree**
I don't need to hang my **stocking**
There upon the **fireplace** (Ah)
Santa Claus won't make me happy
With a toy on Christmas Day

I just want you for my own (Ooh)
More than you could ever know (Ooh)
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas
I won't even wish for snow (And I)
I'm just gonna keep on waiting
Underneath the **mistletoe**

I won't make a list and send it
To the North Pole for Saint Nick (Ah)
I won't even stay awake to
Hear those magic **reindeer** click

'Cause I just want you here tonight (Ooh)
Holding on to me so tight (Ooh)
What more can I do?
Oh baby, all I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, all the lights are shining
So brightly everywhere (So brightly, baby)
And the sound of children's
Laughter fills the air (Oh, oh yeah)
And everyone is singing (Oh yeah)
I hear those **sleigh** bells ringing (Oh)
Santa, won't you bring me the one I really
need? Won't you please bring my baby to
me?



Reindeer

Santa Claus

Sleigh

Holly

Mistletoe

Christmas tree

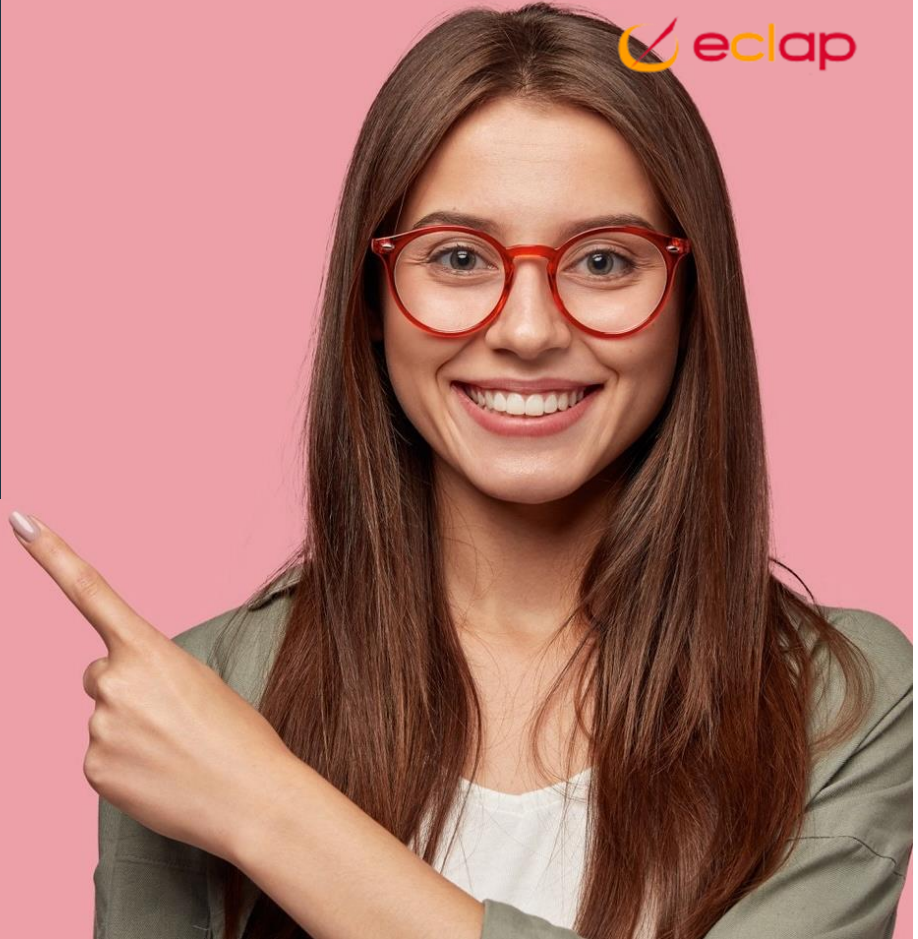
Fireplace

Stocking

Present



More Seasonal Vocabulary





Jack Frost snowman snowflake







chestnuts

turkey

Christmas pudding



Noche De Paz

Oh Noche Santa

Cascabeles

El Tamborilero

Rodolfo El Reno



Silent Night



Oh, Holy Night

Jingle Bells

The Little Drummer Boy

**Rudolf The Red-nosed
Reindeer**

choir
carols

Christmas songs



In addition, furthermore,
moreover, additionally
(written only)

What's more, (spoken only)

On top of that, Besides that,

Apart from that,

+ SUBJECT + VERB

Además,



Es más,

Además de eso,

Aparte de esto/eso,

chestnuts

turkey

Christmas pudding



Jack Frost
snow
snowman
snowflake



choir
carols

Christmas songs



Christmas <u>Lights</u>	<u>Chestnuts</u>	Jack Frost	<u>Carols</u>
<u>Choir</u>	<u>Snowball</u>	<u>Turkey</u>	<u>Mistletoe</u>
<u>Stocking</u>	Santa	<u>Sleigh</u>	<u>Reindeer</u>
<u>Holly</u>	<u>Presents</u>	<u>Snowman</u>	Merry Christmas

Christmas Song Bingo

When you get a line of four,
send a message in the chat
with the four words you
heard.



Don't worry if you miss some of the
lyrics, we'll listen a second time with
subtitles

Christmas Song

Nat King Cole

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
Jack Frost nipping at your nose
Yule-tide **carols** being sung by a
choir
Folks dressed up like Eskimos

Everybody knows a **turkey** and
some **mistletoe**
Helps to make the season bright
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
Will find it hard to sleep tonight

They know that **Santa's** on his way
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his
sleigh
And every mother's child is gonna spy
To see if **reindeer** really know how to fly

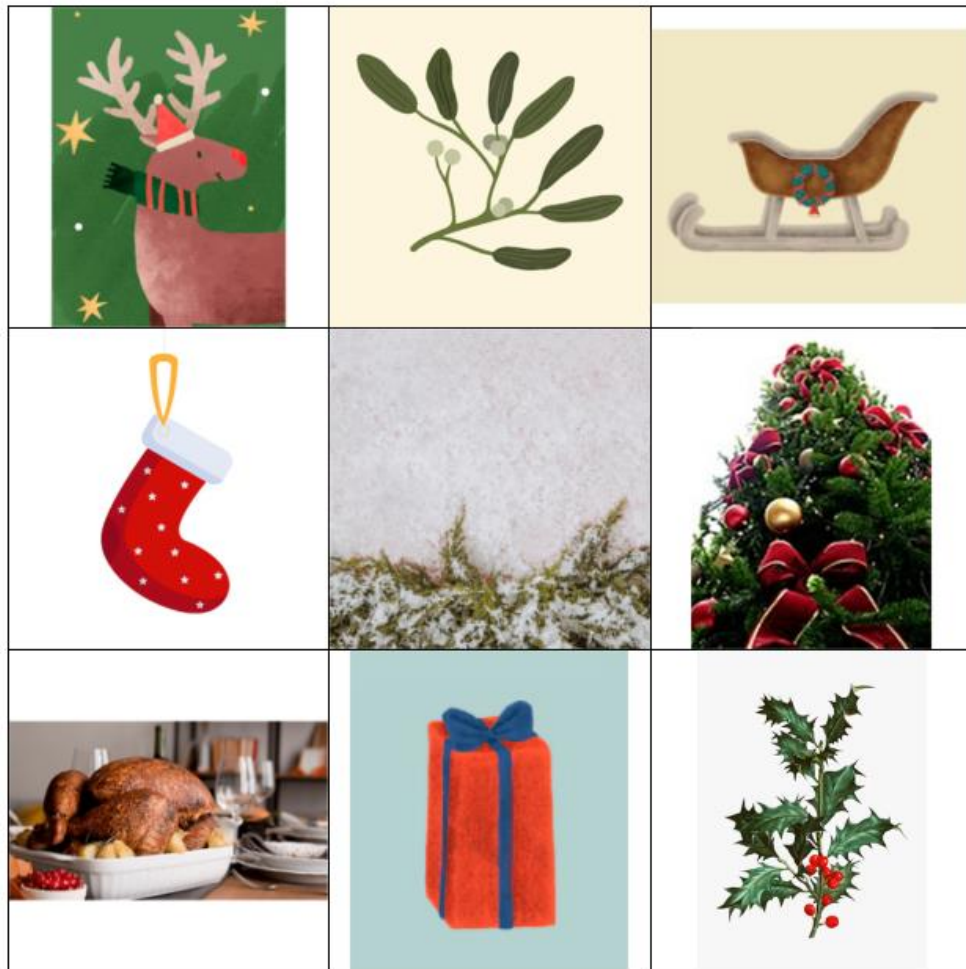
And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety-two
Although it's been said many times, many
ways
Merry Christmas to you

Christmas Lights	<u>Chestnuts</u>	Jack Frost	<u>Carols</u>
<u>Choir</u>	Snowball	<u>Turkey</u>	<u>Mistletoe</u>
<u>Stocking</u>	Santa	<u>Sleigh</u>	<u>Reindeer</u>
 Holly	<u>Presents</u>	Snowman	Merry Christmas



Christmas Song Bingo

Congratulations to everyone who
heard all Christmas words!



Merry Christmas Everyone Bingo

When you get a line of three,
send a message in the chat
with the three words you
heard.



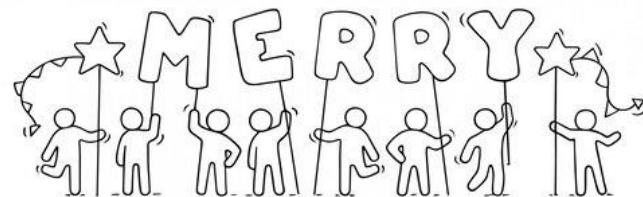
Don't worry if you miss some of the
lyrics, we'll listen a second time with
subtitles

Merry Christmas Everyone Shakin' Stevens

Snow is falling all around me
Children playing, having fun
It's the season, love and understanding
Merry Christmas everyone

Time for parties and celebration
People dancing all night long
Time for **presents** and exchanging kisse:
Time for singing Christmas songs

We're gonna have a party tonight
I'm gonna find that girl
Underneath the **mistletoe**
We'll kiss by candlelight



Resources for writing in English



First of all...

1. DeepL Translator

Summary: Has text, document, and even web-page translation. Just by clicking on a word you can find multiple options for how to say what you want to say.

Resources for writing in English



Spanish (detected) ▾



English (American) ▾

Glossary

Fiona es buena, sin embargo, un buen motor de traducción es aún mejor ✕

Fiona is good, but a good translation engine is even better.

≡ Alternatives

📖 Dictionary



however, ...

however a good ...

yet ...

nevertheless ...



Resources for writing in English

Secondly...

1. ChatGPT

Summary: AI that will translate text Alternatively you can ask it to make suggestions on how to improve your grammar and syntax. It can change the register of your writing. It can explain conventions for writing in different contexts.



Resources for writing in English



Lastly...

1. Linguee

Summary: Translation tool that combines dictionary features with examples from real-world texts, such as websites and documents.

Resources for writing in English

Linguee

aunque  *conjunction*

although *conj*  

Aunque estoy a dieta, de vez en cuando me como un helado.

Although I am on a diet, I occasionally eat an ice cream.

while *conj*  

though *conj*  

Podemos cenar pizza esta noche, aunque preferiría pasta.

We can have pizza for dinner tonight, though I'd prefer pasta.

even if *conj*  

Voy de campamento este fin de semana aunque nieve.

I am going camping this weekend even if it snows.

even though *conj*  

Aunque el libro es viejo, está en buen estado.

Even though the book is old, it is in good condition.

albeit *conj*  

Finalmente llegaron los invitados, aunque muy tarde.

The guests finally arrived, albeit very late.

Resources for writing in English

Linguee

^ External sources (not reviewed)

Aunque la criba primaria de sustancias se basa en métodos in vitro, el plazo de 2009 podría plantear problemas.

↪ eur-lex.europa.eu

Although the primary screening of substances is based on in vitro methods, the deadline of 2009 might still pose a problem.

↪ eur-lex.europa.eu

El registro de la PN sigue siendo un mecanismo escrito a mano, aunque hay la voluntad política de computarizarlo si hay recursos disponibles.

↪ internationalalert.org

The PN register remains a handwritten mechanism, though there is the political will to computerise if resources become available.

↪ internationalalert.org

Lamentablemente, tenemos poco que aportar al desarrollo de esta política, aunque espero que eso cambie.

↪ europarl.europa.eu

Sadly, we have had little input to the development of this policy, though I do hope that that will change.

↪ europarl.europa.eu

También resultan deliciosas acompañadas de limonada o naranjada, aunque no es muy común en las islas.

↪ menurka.com

They are also delicious accompanied with orange or lemonade, although this is not very common on the islands.

↪ menurka.com

Aunque la educación en su sentido más amplio es el medio de acción principal, para que logre sus objetivos es menester unirla [...]

↪ unesdoc.unesco.org

While education, in its broadest sense, is the leading modality for action, to be successful, it must be associated with [...]

↪ unesdoc.unesco.org

Resources for studying over the holidays



First of all...

1. BBC Learning English

Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/>

Summary: Offers free lessons, videos, and audio resources covering grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and everyday English. It includes specialized series like "The English We Speak" and business English resources.

Resources for studying over the holidays



Second...

2. VOA Learning English

Website: <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/>

Summary: Offers news articles, videos, and radio programs specifically tailored for ESL learners, with simplified vocabulary and slower speech.

Resources for studying over the holidays

Third...

3. Duolingo

Website: <https://www.duolingo.com/>

Summary: A gamified language-learning platform where students can practice vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure through interactive exercises. Progress tracking and community features make it very engaging.



Resources for studying over the holidays



Fourth...

4. El Pais in English

Website: <https://english.elpais.com/>

Summary: Translated articles from El Pais. The translations are excellent and are a great way to get familiar with vocabulary regarding current events.

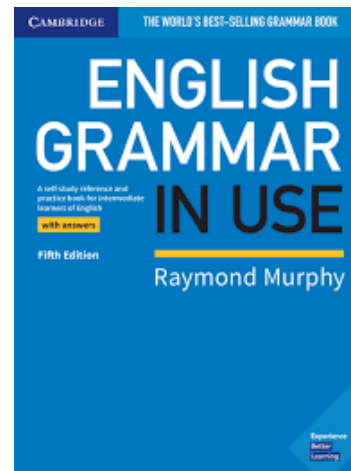
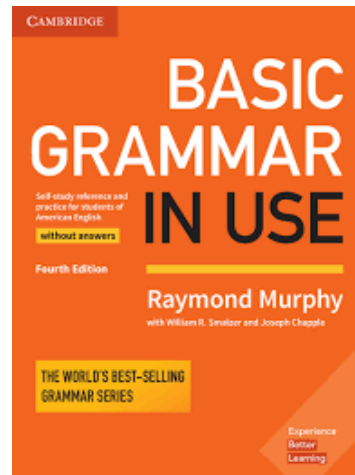
Resources for studying over the holidays

Last...

5. Raymond Murphy

Basic Grammar in Use / English Grammar in Use

Summary: Grammar books that are very popular with learners because of their in-depth explanations of English grammar with clear examples. Also has exercises to practice grammar rules.



Sequencing

First (of all) / Firstly

Second / Secondly

Third / Thirdly

Finally / Lastly

Primero / En primer lugar

Segundo / En segundo lugar

Tercero / En tercer lugar

Finalmente / Por ultimo

Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?