

Customs and traditions

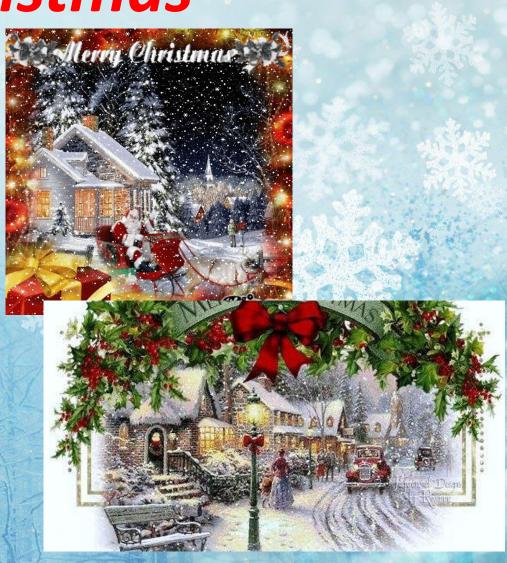
Every country has its own customs and traditions. English people are proud of their traditions and they keep them up. It is difficult to speak about England without speaking about its holidays.



All English people celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December. What kind of holiday is it? It is the yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



This holiday means the beginning of the new year and the new life.

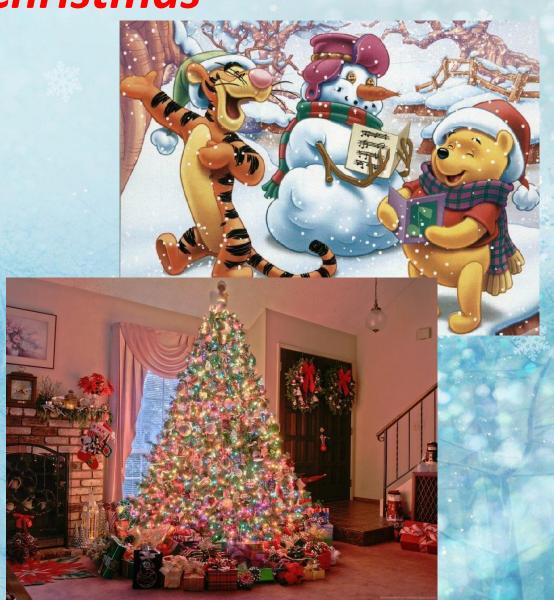


English people celebrate this festival with evergreen tree - the fir tree. Children posting Christmas stockings near their beds, and Santa Claus is coming through the pipe to bring them gifts.





Christmas Day is the greatest holiday in England. It is interesting to visit the shops before this holiday. There are a lot of nice Christmas cards and presents there.



English people like this holiday very much and prepare for it beforehand. They buy presents for each other, try to send Christmas cards for their relatives and friends.





A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Everywhere you can see slogans
"A Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year!».



New Year's Day

It is commonly believed that New Year's Day is less important in England than Christmas. It is true in the southern and eastern parts of the country.





New Year

However, even there, the welcoming of the **New Year is growing** in popularity, particularly among younger people who prefer to spend Christmas with kin, but New Year with friends. New Year's parties go all night through.



January 1st

Unfortunately for all these midnight celebrators, January 1st is not a public holiday in England.



After midnight

After midnight, people visit their friends. They bring cakes to wish the owners good year.



The first visitor

The first visitor should bring a special gift - a piece of coal, and to wish good luck to the house and heat. It's an old Scottish tradition.

