

# Thought on Christmas

Sharron talks about how she feels about Christmas.



- 1 **Dai:** So Christmas is coming around the corner. How do you feel about that?

**Sharron:** I love Christmas. I love the time with the family, the time off work to relax and enjoy each other's company and just time at home with everyone.

**Dai:** So, what do you .... what's like a traditional Christmas for you then?

**Sharron:** Well, the build up is a bit of a nuisance really. It's a lot of money, but it's good fun and it's great. The end result, Christmas morning, watching everybody opening the presents that I've bought and things, but, yeah, a traditional Christmas would be rushing around Christmas Eve getting all the last minute things. Probably up till very late, wrapping presents, and then up early Christmas morning, opening presents, a family visit to see our daughter opening her presents as well, and

- 2 then it's normally shared around some of the family. We do a different Christmas dinner every year. Either we ...

**Dai:** Christmas dinner? What kind of ... ?

**Sharron:** Right! Christmas dinner back home is a big roast turkey and all the trimmings: stuffing, vegetables ...

**Dai:** Stuffing?

- Sharron:** Stuffing. It's like herbs and breadcrumbs and onions and things. All made up and you stuff it under the skin of the turkey and when the turkey roasts it cooks in there as well. It's really, really tasty. So we have sort of a family meal and one year we'll go to one of the parent's houses or they'll come to us. We just change it round every year. And then normally, it's sort of a lazy afternoon after we've
- 3

eaten far too much, and watching some of the traditional British television: The Queen's speech at 3 o'clock every Christmas Day.

**Dai:** So the Queen gives a speech?

**Sharron:** Yeah. Tells everybody how her year has been and what she thinks Britain has achieved in the last twelve months and how she thinks things are going to go for the next twelve months and it's on for about twenty minutes I suppose. Not everybody watches it. Sometimes people, after their large lunch, have fallen asleep in the chair by the time it's on the TV, so ...

**Dai:** Right.

- 4 **Sharron:** But Christmas night then, it's normally cold turkey sandwiches, pickled onions, crisps.

**Dai:** Crisps? Like ...

# Coasteering

...continued



**Sharron:** Like ...

**Dai:** Potato chips?

**Sharron:** Potato chips,...yeah, sorry, potato chips, yeah. We call them crisps back home so ...

**Dai:** OK.

**Sharron:** Sit in front of the TV again. It's just a generally family time.

**Dai:** Sounds pretty lazy.

5 **Sharron:** It is. Very lazy. Boxing Day then is ...

**Dai:** Boxing Day?

**Sharron:** Yeah, now Boxing Day is the day after Christmas Day.

**Dai:** So the 26th?

**Sharron:** The 26th of December. Saint Steven's Day, but we have another day's holiday then so ...

**Dai:** Why is it called Boxing Day?

**Sharron:** I haven't got a clue. Not a clue.

**Dai:** Think it's cause everyone gets rids of their boxes?

**Sharron:** Could be. After all the Christmas gifts, yeah. But we generally have a busier day the next day. There's a lot of sport activities going on where we live. In Temby, which is a local seaside town, they have a big Boxing Day swim, which is unheard of in the winter. Nobody

goes in the sea much in the summer, where we live.

**Dai:** Right, it must be really cold.

**Sharron:** Very cold.

**Dai:** Like, what would that be in degrees?

**Sharron:** Oh, I don't know, but people dress up and run in the sea for charity. People give donations for money and it's all in a good cause and it's a bit of fun. But there's also football matches and rugby matches and things.

**Dai:** So you generally have a good time.

**Sharron:** Yeah, most people go out on Boxing Day. It's a more active day than Christmas Day. Christmas Day is the day where most people tend to stay in and be with the family and Boxing Day we will go out and meet up with friends generally.



## Summarize

Take notes as you listen or read the interview on the left side of the paper. Then write complete sentences to summarize the story in your own words. The first one is done.

<p>Part 1:</p> <p>love it, time with family, no work</p> <p>traditional, lot of money, good fun</p> <p>presents, last minute, family</p>	<p><u>Sharron loves Christmas because she can spend time with family and she doesn't have to work. It costs a lot of money but it's good fun to rush around to buy presents at the last minute and then get together on Christmas morning with the family to open them.</u></p>
<p>Part 2:</p> <p>different dinner every year</p> <p>roast turkey with stuffing</p> <p>herbs, bread crumbs, onion, under skin</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 3:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 4:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 5:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

## Start a Conversation



Match the following questions with the best responses.

1. What do you think of Christmas?	___ Of course, they have already given me their Christmas lists...they are a mile long.
2. Do you know of any cool places to buy men's clothes?	___ Actually, we never follow tradition--we'll probably have Chinese food.
3. What are your plans for Christmas?	___ This year I get Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and the weekend, so five.
4. What are you going to have for dinner?	___ What are you looking for, something fancy or something casual?
5. Are your kids excited about Christmas?	___ I hope so, it has been super warm for the past three years on Christmas day.
6. How many days off of work do you get?	___ The same as every year, we are going to exchange presents.
7. Do you think we'll get a white Christmas this year?	___ Yeah, it's a lot more convenient than standing in long lines.
8. Have you finished all of your shopping?	___ It's expensive, but I love it.
9. Do you plan on buying any presents online?	___ Well, our family isn't very religious, so we usually don't, but a lot of families do.
10. Do you usually go to church during Christmas time?	___ Are you kidding? I always end up waiting until the last minute.

# Keep the Conversation Going



*Create a longer conversations about Christmas  
and then have a conversation with a partner*

A: I can't believe it's Christmas time already.

B: I know, this year went so fast.

A: Christmas, in my opinion, is \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

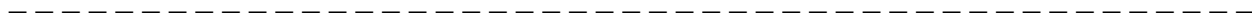
---

---

---

---

What \_\_\_\_\_?



A: Do you celebrate Christmas?

B: Yeah, my family does all of the traditional Christmas things.

A: In my country, \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_?

## Start a Conversation: ANSWER SHEET

*Asking someone's for information is a great way to start a conversation.*

Match the following questions with the responses.

1. What do you think of Christmas?	5 Of course, they have already given me their Christmas lists...they are a mile long.
2. Do you know of any cool places to buy men's clothes?	4 Actually, we never follow tradition--we'll probably have Chinese food.
3. What are your plans for Christmas?	6 This year I get Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and the weekend, so five.
4. What are you going to have for dinner?	2 What are you looking for, something fancy or something casual?
5. Are your kids excited about Christmas?	7 I hope so, it has been super warm for the past three years on Christmas day.
6. How many days off of work do you get?	3 The same as every year, we are going to exchange presents.
7. Do you think we'll get a white Christmas this year?	9 Yeah, it's a lot more convenient than standing in long lines.
8. Have you finished all of your shopping?	1 It's expensive, but I love it.
9. Do you plan on buying any presents online?	10 Well, our family isn't very religious, so we usually don't, but a lot of families do.
10. Do you usually go to church during Christmas time?	8 Are you kidding? I always end up waiting until the last minute.