

Thoughts on Christmas

Darren talks about how he feels about Christmas.



- 1 **Dai:** So Darren, it's not long now until Christmas, are you looking forward to it?

Darren: Yes and no. I do like Christmas, the spirit of Christmas, I believe it does bring people closer together, but the thing I find year upon year that's becoming more and more tiresome for me is the pressure put on people, especially families with young children, to spend lots and lots of money. I think the true meaning of Christmas is lessening year upon year.

- 2 **Dai:** Right. What is the true meaning of Christmas then?

Darren: Well I think it's like I said it's families getting together and people showing kindness to one another. I think that should happen all the time mind, but I think at Christmas people do get together and you see people and you wish them a Merry Christmas and it's a really lovely atmosphere to be in over a couple of weeks over the whole Christmas period. That is what I really do enjoy about Christmas, but as I said I think it's becoming too commercialized—too much pressure to buy the latest toy. There always seems to be the *in-toy* to have and I think

- 4 **Darren:** Yeah, I think it does. That's in general, but especially at Christmas I really do feel for some of the families who obviously are struggling with finances. I'd like that to not detract from what Christmas is really about which is a great time and we have got a fairly big family and we do do a lot of visiting and we have great times at Christmas and we probably do too much on the food and drink.

Dai: Food and drink: like what kind ... you know, what are your favorite bits about the food and drink?

Darren: I always love Christmas dinner. The turkey is always cooked to perfection and wherever we

people who could afford it: great, but I think a lot of the families really struggle at Christmas and they're probably in debt for the next twelve months until the next Christmas.

Dai: Wow, it sounds like it would put a lot of pressure on families.

- 5 go the cooking is usually absolutely spot on. No matter how much we eat of Christmas dinner, there's always room left for a bit of Christmas pudding as well.

Dai: Christmas pudding?

Darren: Yeah, it's a very rich, fruit-based pudding which you can usually have with either brandy sauce, which is the only time of the year you ever eat brandy sauce, or with something like cream or custard.

Dai: Oh, OK. And what does it taste like then?

Darren: It's very, very rich. It's one of those things where you either love it or you hate it. I think I'm the only one in my family who eats Christmas pudding, which is great news for me because it means I've got it all to myself, but I do suffer for it afterwards—very, very bloated and flake out on to the settee and one eye on the television and the other eye sleeping.

Dai: OK, yeah, it sounds like a good time then.

Practice makes Perfect

Main Points: Answer the following questions about the interview.



1) What does he says is tiresome?

- a) Traveling
- b) Scheduling
- c) Shopping

2) What does he enjoy about Christmas?

- a) Going to parties
- b) Being with loved ones
- c) Having more free time

3) He worries about people ____.

- a) eating too much
- b) spending too much
- c) drinking too much

4) What is usually spot on?

- a) The atmosphere
- b) The food
- c) The people

5) How does he feel about pudding?

- a) He loves it.
- b) He avoids it.
- c) He eats just a bit.

Unscramble: Put the mixed up sentences in the correct order.

1. to Christmas | you | are | looking | forward | ?

2. is | of | the true | meaning | what | Christmas ?

3. what are | things to | on Christmas | eat and | your favorite | drink ?

4. like | what | Christmas | taste | does | pudding ?

Discussion: Can you remember how Darren answered the above questions?

Bits and Pieces

Circle the mistakes and write them correctly.

1. It doesn't seems like people understand the true meaning of Christmas.

2. He don't know what he is going to do for Christmas this year.

3. My family all the time eats turkey on Christmas day.

4. Christmas puts a lot of pressure on families who a lot of money don't have.

5. This year we are going to give gifts to peoples who don't have money.

6. We always eat too much foods on Christmas day.

7. I don't know nobody that can follow their diet during the holidays.

8. When I was a kid, I never got no good presents from Santa.

9. He was gave gifts from about twenty different people.

10. Turkey has to be cook for many hours before it's done.

Bits and Pieces: Prepositions

Put the PHRASES in the spaces
(Some will be used more than once)

to
until
of
upon
with
on
at
for
about
from
in



Dai: So Darren, it's not long now ____ Christmas, are you looking forward ____ it?

Darren: Yes and no. I do like Christmas, the spirit ____ Christmas, I believe it does bring people closer together, but the thing I find year ____ year that's becoming more and more tiresome for me is the pressure put ____ people, especially families ____ young children, to spend lots and lots ____ money. I think the true meaning ____ Christmas is lessening year ____ year.

Dai: Right. What is the true meaning ____ Christmas then?

Darren: Well I think it's like I said, it's families getting together and people showing kindness ____ one another. I think that should happen all the time mind, but I think ____ Christmas people do get together and you see people and you wish them a Merry Christmas and it's a really lovely atmosphere to be in over a couple ____ weeks over the whole Christmas period. That is what I really do enjoy about Christmas, but as I said I think it's becoming too commercialized--too much pressure to buy the

latest toy. There always seems to be the *in-toy* to have and I think people who could afford it: great, but I think a lot ____ the families really struggle ____ Christmas and they're probably ____ debt ____ the next twelve months ____ the next Christmas.

Dai: Wow, it sounds like it would put a lot ____ pressure ____ families.

Darren: Yeah, I think it does. That's ____ general, but especially ____ Christmas I really do feel ____ some ____ the families who obviously are struggling ____ finances. I'd like that to not detract ____ what Christmas is really ____ which is a great time and we have got a fairly big family and we do do a lot ____ visiting and we have great times ____ Christmas and we probably do too much on the food and drink.

Dai: Food and drink: like what kind ... you know, what are your favorite bits ____ the food and drink?

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Dai: Christmas pudding?

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ANSWER SHEET

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