

Christmas (critical thinking) exercise

Ranking Exercise

Rank the following Christmas activities from most to least festive. Explain why the first ranked item is the most festive.

- ____ Going to work as usual.
- ____ Listening to Christmas music.
- ____ Exchanging gifts.
- ____ Cooking a traditional Christmas meal.
- ____ Decorating a Christmas tree.

Explain why the first ranked item is the most festive. _____

Comparative Chart: Christmas Traditions in Two Different Countries

Aspect	Country A (e.g., USA)	Country B (e.g., Japan)
Main Celebration Date	December 25	December 24
Typical Food	Turkey, ham, pies	Fried chicken, Christmas cake
Common Decorations	Christmas tree, lights, wreath	Illuminations, Santa figures
Gift-Giving Tradition	Family and friends	Mostly for children
Unique Tradition	Stocking fillers	Christmas markets, KFC meal

Discussion Questions

1. How does the celebration date of Christmas differ between Country A and Country B?

2. Compare the typical foods eaten during Christmas in both countries. Which would you prefer to try?

3. What are the common decorations used in each country during Christmas? Which style appeals to you more?

4. Discuss how gift-giving traditions vary between the two countries. Which tradition do you find more interesting?

5. Each country has a unique Christmas tradition. What are they and which one would you like to experience?

Example Answers for the Ranking Exercise

1. **Decorating a Christmas tree:** This activity is often seen as the most festive because it directly involves creating a holiday atmosphere. The Christmas tree is a central symbol of the season, and decorating it with lights, ornaments, and tinsel embodies the spirit of Christmas. It's a time for family to come together and celebrate, making it a very special and festive occasion.
2. **Cooking a traditional Christmas meal:** This is a highly festive activity, second only to decorating the tree. Preparing special dishes that are enjoyed only during this time of the year adds to the celebratory feel of Christmas.
3. **Exchanging gifts:** Exchanging gifts is a core part of Christmas festivities, symbolizing love and gratitude. It ranks slightly lower because while it's a significant part of the celebration, it happens after the other festive preparations.
4. **Listening to Christmas music:** This activity adds to the festive mood but is more of a background activity compared to active participation like decorating and cooking.
5. **Going to work as usual:** This is the least festive activity as it doesn't involve any specific Christmas celebration or spirit. It's a regular day-to-day activity that doesn't change for the holiday.

Discussion Questions

1. Country A celebrates on December 25, while Country B has its main celebration on December 24.
2. Country A typically has turkey, ham, and pies, whereas Country B enjoys fried chicken and Christmas cake. I'd love to try the Christmas cake from Country B.
3. Country A uses Christmas trees, lights, and wreaths, while Country B decorates with illuminations and Santa figures. I prefer the illuminations in Country B.
4. In Country A, gifts are exchanged among family and friends, whereas in Country B, it's mainly for children. I find the focus on children in Country B interesting.
5. Country A has stocking fillers, and Country B has unique Christmas markets and a special KFC meal. I would like to experience the Christmas markets in Country B.