

## Mog's Christmas Calamity

**Language level:** Pre-intermediate (A2) - Intermediate (B1)

**Learner type:** Young learners, teens and adults

**Time:** 90 minutes

**Activity:** watching a short film, speaking and writing

**Topic:** Christmas

**Language:** Vocabulary related to Christmas

**Materials:** Short film



**Overview**

This EFL lesson plan is designed around a short film commissioned by the British supermarket chain Sainsbury's titled *Mog's Christmas Calamity* inspired by the children's writer [Judith Kerr](#). In the lesson students collate vocabulary related to Christmas, talk about Christmas customs, watch a short film and predict the ending of the film.

**Step 1**

Dictate the following words:

Christmas card, present, tree, decorations, snowman, turkey, cracker, chestnuts and candle.

**Step 2**

Ask your students to think of verbs which go with Christmas card. Try to elicit:

Write a Christmas card, send a Christmas card, open a Christmas card.

Put your students into pairs and ask them to come up with verbs which collocate with the other nouns.

If your students live in a country which celebrates Christmas you may help them with the vocabulary and the task should not be too difficult. However, if your students don't celebrate Christmas you may prefer to just teach the vocabulary.

**Step 3**

Get feedback from the whole class and write up the most typical collocations such as:

Choice a present, wrap a present, send a present, put a present under the Christmas present, unwrap a present, open a present, return a present.

Choice a Christmas tree, buy a Christmas tree, decorate a Christmas tree, put a fairy/star on top of the Christmas tree, put present under a Christmas tree.

Put up decorations, take down decorations.

Make a snowman, dress a snowman.

Buy a turkey, stuff a turkey, roast a turkey, carve a turkey.

Pull a cracker.

Roast chestnuts.

Light a candle, blow out a candle.

**Step 4**

Put your students into small groups. If they celebrate Christmas ask them to describe Christmas traditions and customs in their country. If they don't celebrate Christmas ask them to describe any Christmas traditions and customs they have seen in films or television series.

**Step 5**

Get feedback from the whole class on Christmas traditions and customs in their countries, or those they have seen in films and television series.

**Step 6**

If you are from a country which celebrates Christmas, tell them about Christmas traditions in your country.

**Step 7**

Tell your students they are going to watch a short film in which they will see a family home on Christmas Eve where everything has been prepared perfectly for Christmas Day, but that the fat family cat called Mog caused a series of calamities which ruin everything. Put them into pairs and ask them to predict what they think Mog might do to ruin Christmas Day. You might like to give an example such as, "Mog might climb on the table and eat all of the turkey."

Give them five minutes to come up with things that Mog could do to ruin Christmas.

**Step 8**

Get feedback from the whole class on how Mog might ruin Christmas Day.

**Step 9**

Tell the students to watch the film and compare their predictions with what actually happens to Mog. Pause at 02:40.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/145612004>

**Step 10**

Get students to describe what happened to Mog and what Mog did.

**Step 11**

Ask your students what they think is going to happen to the Thomas family now and what they are going to do to celebrate Christmas Day.

**Step 12**

Now show the rest of the film and ask your students if they like the ending.

**Step 13**

Pause at the caption "Christmas is for sharing". Ask your students if they agree with this message and give examples of how we can share at Christmas.

**I hope you enjoy the lesson.**

*Film English* is a labour of love, it takes hundreds of hours and thousands of euros a year to sustain and provide free English language lesson

# FILM ENGLISH

plans. Keeping it a free, clean, ad-free experience – which is important to me and, I hope, to you – means it's subsidised by the generous support of readers like you through donations. So if you find any inspiration, joy and stimulation in these English language lessons or if they help you teaching English, please consider a modest donation – however much you can afford.

