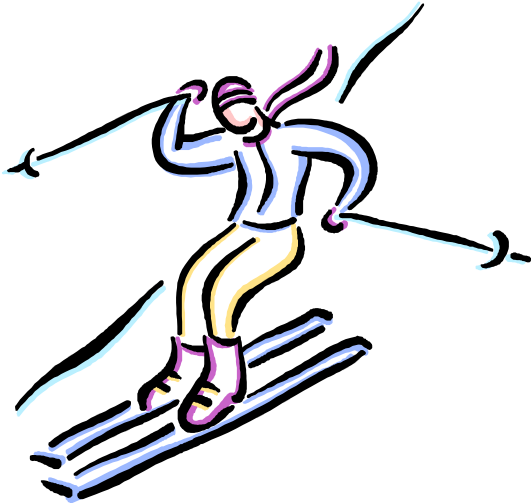


Topic: Winter Holidays

Let's get started . . . What is on your "to-do list" in December?



Story: John and his family get together for a family dinner on every Christmas holiday. But, John didn't want to spend the whole holiday playing games with his little nephews in his parents' house. He decided to break with his family's tradition for Christmas.

Instead, he and his girlfriend, Kelly, took a ski trip to Toronto in Canada. John lied to his parents. He said that he had to do extra holiday work in his office on Christmas Eve and on Christmas day.

However, John had an unfortunate accident. When he went downhill he bumped against a pine tree so badly that he broke his right leg. He was black and blue all over!

John's girlfriend called his parents to come to the ER. They were too stunned to say anything for quite a while.

At last his mother asked him, "What happened to you, son? We thought you were working at your office." Then John answered nervously, "Mom, (_____.)"

What do you think John said to his mother? (You can talk about this, or if you want, everyone can write down an answer and then compare answers with their neighbors or the with the group.)



In pairs, talk about:



1. Do you have plans for Winter Break, Christmas, Chanukah, New Year's Day or other December holidays with your family? Talk about them with your neighbor.
2. Most kids really like to take a family trip. However, it seems the older they grow, the more reluctant they are to spend time at home with their parents. How do parents feel when a child does not want to spend holidays together?
3. Did you ever skip holidays with family? Why or why not?
4. When your family gets together for holidays or special meals during the year, how many people come? Who does the cooking? Who hosts the party? Do family members take turns? Do you have any special family traditions? Explain.



Interview 3 people. Write their names in the far left column. Then ask them about their winter holiday plans. Say: "Do you celebrate _____?"

Name	Christmas 	New Year's Eve or New Year's Day 	Another December holiday 

For Parents/Grandparents of students:

What do kids like to do on school vacations? How is life different for parents, grandparents and kids during school vacations?

What holidays do your children like best? Why? (Do parents like them also?)

For Working People:

Do you have holiday time off at work? How much time? Do you like to work on holidays? Why or why not? Compare time-off for holidays in the US and in your home country.

Does your workplace have decorations or parties for the winter holidays? Why or why not? Give examples. Compare decorations and parties for holidays in the US and in your home country.



Vocabulary: "to-do list", "spend the holiday", nephew, "break with tradition", lied, unfortunate, accident, bumped, "black and blue", ER, stunned, nervous, possibly, reluctant, "a good deal of", "take turns", "decorations"

Keep talking about it this week: Ask your friends, "What plans do you have for the winter holidays?" Share their answers with your Talk Time group next time.