



Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Activity Plan - High Beginner  
Canadian Winter Holidays  
90 minutes



### Objective/Goal:

This activity requires the participants to work together to learn about Canadian Winter holidays: Christmas and New Year's Day. Culture sharing is a great way to get the group talking.

### Materials:

Participants need: a worksheet of new words and pictures, a matching game sheet, flash cards, and two sets of playing cards.

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard
- whiteboard markers

**Procedure:** Warm-up 15 min  
Work-out 60 min  
Cool-down 15 min

Brainstorm and get the group's attention by asking the following questions: **"What holidays do you celebrate in your home country in winter?" "Do you know what holidays Canadians celebrate in winter?"** After the group sharing, introduce the topic of the day - **Winter Holidays**. The key frame sentences are:

1. **People in Canada celebrate two national holidays in winter - Christmas and New Year's Day.**
2. **Do you celebrate any winter National Holidays in your country?**
3. **What are the names of your holidays?**
4. **How do you celebrate your national holidays in your home country?"**

### 1. Warm- up Activity

Introduce the holidays by writing the following words on the board. Define unfamiliar words. Read the words and phrases. Have the group repeat after you several times.

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. take a vacation                  | 2. put ornaments on the tree    |
| 3. decorate the house               | 4. hang stockings               |
| 5. send holiday greeting cards      | 6. wrap holiday presents        |
| 7. watch the Christmas Parade       | 8. exchange presents            |
| 9. eat a special dinner             | 10. go shopping on Boxing Day   |
| 11. visit family members or friends | 12. celebrate on New Year's Eve |

After your introduction on winter holidays and practice on new words and phrases, play a short video on Christmas by clicking the link <http://youtu.be/51bO1CVPWRA>. Discuss the video with the group.

## 2. Work-out Activity :

**Activity 1 - Whole class Practice Drill #1:** Have participants repeat the verbal phrases, vocabulary and the sentences.

Review winter holidays activity and vocabulary by holding up the pictures and words, and then asking the whole group to repeat the prompts.

**A: "On winter holidays, people decorate their houses with lights."**

**B: "People put ornaments on evergreen trees and hang stockings for kids."**

**Activity 2 - Whole class Practice Drill #2:** Have participants say the correct sentence that matches the picture prompt.

This is how it works: Hold up one of the pictures, for example, "**take a vacation**" and ask the whole group: "**What do people do on winter holidays?**" so that they will reply "**People take a vacation.**" Continue with the other pictures.

Alternate between asking the whole group and individual participants.

- **Model all** of the partner activities before doing **Drill 2**, and make sure the participants understand your instructions.

**Activity 3 - Partner Practice Drill:** Give each pair of participants a set of the words and pictures. Ask them to work with their partner to practice

the frame sentence "**How do people celebrate New Year's Eve?**" They then get a picture or word card from the pile and answer using the sample frame sentence "**They have a party on New Year's Eve.**"

**3. Cool Down -** Play the memory game with the whole group by saying one word and calling on a volunteer to use the word in a sentence. Then have the group repeat the sentence aloud.

**“How do people celebrate winter holidays?”**  
**“They .....”**

**Decorate their house with lights**



**Put ornaments on an evergreen tree**



**Hang stockings for kids**



**Wrap gifts**



**Watch the Santa parade**



**Send Greeting Cards**





**Take a vacation**



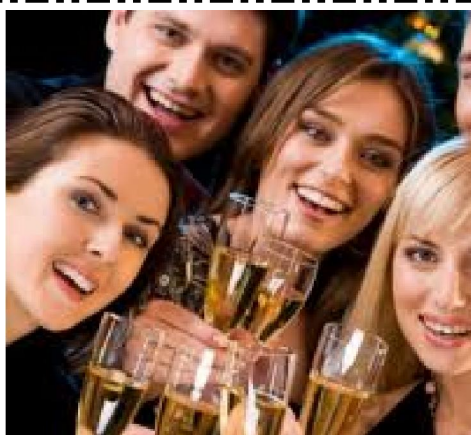
**Eat a special  
holiday dinner**



**Exchange gifts**



**Party on New  
Year's Eve**



**Visit family  
members and  
friends**



**Go shopping on  
Boxing Day**





## BINGO Caller's card

<b>Party on New Year's Eve</b> 	<b>Take a vacation</b> 	<b>Exchange gifts</b> 	<b>Hang Stockings</b> 
<b>Exchange gifts</b> 	<b>Visit friends and family members</b> 	<b>Party on New Year's Eve</b> 	<b>Take a vacation</b> 
<b>Hang Stockings</b> 	<b>Send Greeting Cards</b> 	<b>Eat a special dinner</b> 	<b>Wrap gifts</b> 
<b>Visit friends and family members</b> 	<b>Wrap gifts</b> 	<b>New Year's Eve party</b> 	 <b>Send greeting cards</b>

## **Note to the facilitators: What do people write on holiday greeting cards?**

You may be asked by some of your participants how to write a holiday card. Here are some common and short messages that you might want to use.

### **General Holiday greeting card messages**

- 1. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year**
  - 2. May the holiday season  
fill your heart with love  
and your life with laughter.**
  - 3. Holidays Greetings!  
With many good wishes  
for the coming year.**
  - 4. May the peace of the holidays be yours;  
And may the coming year  
be filled with happiness.**
  - 5. Peace, good will and happiness  
for you at the holiday season and always.**
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