

English

NEWSLETTER

SeeYouSpeak®English



Happy Holidays!

Members,
I'm happy to bring you the December edition of SeeYouSpeak®English. Inside you'll find tips, advice, promotions and news. Look for levels: "easy," "advanced," "difficult" for practice within the newsletter.

Best wishes to you and your family during the holiday season!

Sincerely, Ken Estep



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SeeYouSpeak® is an innovative and personal English conversation method developed by Ken Estep. Experience the excitement of improving your English abilities with your personal American instructor in the comfort of your home.



“FROSTY THE SNOWMAN”



Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul,
 With a corncob pipe and a button nose,
 And two eyes made out of coal.
 Frosty the snowman is a fairy tale, they say,
 He was made of snow but the children
 know how he came to life one day.
 There must have been some magic in that
 Old silk hat they found.
 For when they placed it on his head,
 He began to dance around.



O, Frosty the snowman
 Was alive as he could be,
 And the children say he could laugh
 And play just the same as you and me.
 Thumpetty thump thump,
 Thumpety thump thump,
 Look at Frosty go.
 Thumpetty thump thump,
 Thumpety thump thump,
 Over the hills of snow.

Frosty the snowman knew

The sun was hot that day,
 So he said, "Let's run and
 we'll have some fun
 now before I melt away."
 Down to the village,
 With a broomstick in his hand,
 Running here and there all
 Around the square saying,
 Catch me if you can.
 He led them down the streets of town
 Right to the traffic cop.
 And he only paused a moment when
 He heard him holler "Stop!"

For Frosty the snowman
 Had to hurry on his way,
 But he waved goodbye saying,
 "Don't you cry,
 I'll be back again some day."
 Thumpetty thump thump,
 Thumpety thump thump,
 Look at Frosty go.
 Thumpetty thump thump,
 Thumpety thump thump,
 Over the hills of snow.



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Level: **difficult**

Santa Claus (Around the world)



In the **United States** and **Canada**, his name is **Santa Claus**.

In **China**, he is called **Shengdan Laoren**.

In **England**, his name is **Father Christmas**, where he has a longer coat and a longer beard.

In **France**, he's known as **Pere Noel**.

In **Germany**, children get presents from **Christindl, the Christ Child**.

In **Costa Rica, Colombia**, and parts of **Mexico**, the gift bearer is **el Niño Jesus**, "the infant Jesus." In **Brazil** and **Peru**, he's called **Papa Noel**.

In **Puerto Rico**, children receive gifts from the **Three Kings** on January 6th, also called the celebration of Epiphany, the 3 King's Day. Each child puts grass under their bed for the camels. In the morning the grass is replaced with gifts. Also, **Puerto Rico**, being part of the United States, does its major gift giving on December 25, with the **Christmas Tree and Santa Claus**.

In **Italy** **Babbo Natale**, which means **Father Christmas**, is **Santa**. Children put a pair of their shoes by the door on the day before Epiphany and the following morning they find them filled with small gifts and candy.

In **Spain** children leave their shoes



Courtesy of the Ardel Group 2005

under the Christmas tree the night of January 5th and presents from the **Three Kings (Los Reyes Magos: Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar)** appear the next morning. **Santa Claus** is called **Papa Noel** and some children receive presents both days on December 24th (from **Papa Noel**) and on January 6th (from the **Three Kings**).

In **Morocco** he is known as **Black Peter**.

In **Japan**, Santa Clause is called Santa Clause or just "Santa". Children often call him "Santa no ojisan," which means "Uncle Santa." (This information comes to you via the courtesy of Mr. Kazuo Miyasako of Dokkyo University.)

In **Sweden** **Jultomten** visits the evening before Christmas day, pulling a big bag of julklappar (Christmas presents) in the deep snow.

På Norsk (in **Norwegian**) "**Julenissen**" arrives on the evening of the 24th.

In the **Netherlands**, he is called **Kerstman**.

In **Finland**, he is called **Joulupukki**.

Sinter Klaas in **Dutch**. He rides a white horse, leaving gifts in wooden shoes.

In **Russia**, he is called **Grandfather Frost** that is "**ded moroz**" (the second "o" has its accent and the last "z" is pronounced as "s".)

He is also called **Kris Kringle** - which comes from the **German** term "the **Christ Child**" (**Christ Kind**).



Level: **advanced**

Eggnog is a popular drink throughout the Americas, and is usually associated with winter celebrations such as Christmas and New Year.

Recipe:

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups milk
- 2 whole cloves
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 2 Tbsp each of rum and bourbon or brandy, or to taste (can omit for kid-friendly eggnog)
- * *(optional) 4 egg whites*



METHOD

- 1** In a large bowl, beat the eggs until they lighten in color (can use a mixer for this or use a whisk to do by hand). Slowly beat in the sugar, whisking until fluffy.
- 2** Combine milk, cloves, cinnamon in a thick-bottomed saucepan. Heat on medium heat, slowly heating mixture until it is steaming hot, but not yet boiling.
- 3** Temper the eggs by slowly whisking the hot milk mixture into the eggs. Pour the mixture back into the saucepan.
- 4** Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture reaches 160°F, and it begins to thicken slightly (helps to have a candy thermometer, but not necessary). Do not allow the mixture to boil, or it will curdle (if this happens you might be able to save it by running it through a blender). Remove from heat and stir in the cream. Strain to remove the cloves. Let cool for one hour.
- 5** Mix in vanilla extract, nutmeg, and bourbon and brandy (can omit for kid-friendly eggnog). Chill.

Makes 1 quart. Serves 4-6.

Level: **difficult**

"Silent Night" ("*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*") is a popular Christmas carol. The original lyrics of the song *Stille Nacht* were written in German by the Austrian priest Father Josef Mohr and the melody was composed by the Austrian headmaster Franz Xaver Gruber. It is believed that the carol has been translated into over 300 languages and dialects around the world, and it is one of the most popular carols of all time. It is sometimes sung without musical accompaniment. Although written by Catholics, it is given special significance in Lutheranism.



Silent Night Museum and Memorial Chapel in Oberndorf

Silent night, holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

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Ken Estep

SEE YOU SPEAK®
Hollywood, California

Tel: (50) 5809-9295 JAPAN

Tel: (424) 704-5295 USA

ken@seeyouspeak.com



Happy Holidays

