

A to Z English

Quick Chat 42: What do you do for Christmas?

It's Christmastime!!! In this episode of Quick Chats, we talk about what we do for Christmas. Learn English by listening to the podcast. You can also join in on the fun by posting comments or voice notes in our Whatsapp group. You can interact with the hosts of the show in our Whatsapp group chat room!

What do you do for Christmas?

Join our WhatsApp group here: <https://forms.gle/zKCS8y1t9jwv2KTn7>

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Send questions and comments to: atozenlshpodcast@gmail.com

Intro/Outro Music: Eaters, song Dig Your Own Soul
(eatersmusic2000) <https://freemusicarchive.org/music/eaters/an-evening-with-tuck-pendleton/dig-your-own-soul/>

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Full Transcript

00:00:01Kevin

Welcome to an A to Z English quick chat.

00:00:04Kevin

We're going to surprise each other with a topic for the day and see where the conversation goes.

00:00:08Kevin

Remember to check our website for a transcript and links to all of our social media so you can join in the conversation as well.

00:00:15Kevin

So what's our?

00:00:16Kevin

What do you want?

00:00:17Kevin

To talk about today guys.

00:00:19Jack

Let's talk about Christmas.

00:00:19Xochitl

But yeah, the holidays are coming, yeah.

00:00:21Jack

Oh, it is coming up.

00:00:23Kevin

Just one more one more week.

00:00:26Xochitl

Yeah, just one week.

00:00:27Xochitl

That's right, we're we're recording this right before right before Christmas, so maybe I'll put this episode out.

00:00:35Xochitl

On Christmas Day or Christmas Eve, something like that.

00:00:38Xochitl

That'll be fun.

00:00:40Xochitl

So what are your tricks?

00:00:40Kevin

Right, so happy Christmas everybody.

00:00:42Xochitl

Yeah, Merry Christmas.

00:00:45Xochitl

So so social.

00:00:47Xochitl

How do you celebrate Christmas now you're in, you're in Mexico.

00:00:51Xochitl

So yeah, uh Christmas is.

00:00:53 Xochitl

A big deal down there for sure.

00:00:56 Jack

Yes it is.

00:00:57 Jack

We have Posadas already going on, which are kind of holidays that start around the 15th of December and they go on until.

00:01:06 Jack

Christmas Eve is when we have our big dinner and everything and Christmas Day is not as huge of a thing.

00:01:14 Jack

Traditionally, we didn't get presents on Christmas Day.

00:01:17 Jack

We wouldn't get them until the other days, which is in January, but growing up since my parents were from 2 cultures, I got Christmas.

00:01:26 Jack

Presents on Christmas and presents on the other day so they would just like I'd get less.

00:01:29 Kevin

Ah, nice now.

00:01:32 Jack

At one time they just divide.

00:01:33 Xochitl

OK, so they would just split it up right like.

00:01:33 Kevin

Them up, yeah, of course of course.

00:01:36 Xochitl

You'll get the.

00:01:36 Xochitl

Xbox on Christmas and the remote control on.

00:01:41 Xochitl

Looking like this.

00:01:42 Jack

Yeah, like you'll get like a bag of marbles on one day and or whatever.

00:01:49 Jack

So yeah, and we do.

00:01:51 Jack

Have the traditional Christmas food and we kind of eat a mix because we see both my grandparents.

00:01:57 Jack

So depending on who we saw, uh, we'd.

00:02:02 Jack

Cliche, which is like a cornbread stuffing which is traditional for Louisiana, where my grandparents are from and we'd have like ham and cranberry sauce and all that stuff.

00:02:12 Jack

And then for my Mexican family we usually make tamales posole.

00:02:19 Jack

And my mom makes punting navideno, which is like fruit punch, but it's hot.

00:02:23 Jack

It sounds bad, but it's actually really good and.

00:02:26 Xochitl

No, this is a non non alcoholic drink.

00:02:29 Jack

Non alcoholic.

00:02:30 Kevin

Yes, yes.

00:02:31 Kevin

Fruit I want that like a hot.

00:02:31 Jack

Yes none.

00:02:32 Kevin

Wine with with some truth in it.

00:02:34 Jack

You can't.

00:02:35 Kevin

So yeah.

00:02:36 Jack

People adults do separately.

00:02:38 Jack

Put like a shot of something in there, but it's made like.

00:02:40 Kevin

Adults do, but you're not an adult yet, but.

00:02:43 Jack

I am but I don't put.

00:02:44 Kevin

No, sorry.

00:02:45 Jack

Alcohol in my mind because I.

00:02:47 Jack

Just like the flavor of it.

00:02:49 Jack

But yeah, so that has a lot of stuff that was like sugar cane and apples and certain Mexican food.

00:02:55 Jack

And my mom has like a super secret ingredient that she puts in hers.

00:02:59 Jack

That definitely makes it better than all the other ones.

00:03:01 Jack

Dad not, but but she's.

00:03:02 Kevin

Definitely alcohol, that's the ingredient.

00:03:05 Kevin

It's sticky, yeah?

00:03:07 Jack

Giving you the the recipe this year because I'm not gonna be with her so hopefully I can make it and find out.

00:03:13 Jack

What she puts in there, yeah.

00:03:15 Xochitl

But keep that recipe top secret though don't share that.

00:03:19 Jack

She's gonna kill me if I do.

00:03:20 Jack

She'll like have me executed.

00:03:22 Jack

So how about you guys?

00:03:25 Jack

How do you celebrate your holidays?

00:03:27 Xochitl

Kevin, do you want to go?

00:03:29 Kevin

I don't really do much for Christmas, I I I went.

00:03:31 Kevin

Over a kid.

00:03:32 Kevin

We would just do like I think I did the most Christmas stuff because you know your kid and and Santa Claus is coming and everything is very exciting.

00:03:41 Kevin

But then when I was in university I I worked some retail jobs which just kind of killed Christmas for me because.

00:03:48 Xochitl

What what do you mean by a retail job exactly?

00:03:50 Kevin

Oh yeah, like I worked at like like a Walmart kind of store like not Walmart but I think like this big store.

00:03:57 Xochitl

Like a department store kind of thing, right?

00:03:59 Kevin

Yeah, North Korean style department store, but yes, Mexican style department store, yeah and yeah they just always play the same Christmas music again and again and again and again and so I kind of hate Christmas music now because because I.

00:04:03 Jack

Right?

00:04:12 Kevin

Heard it over and over again.

00:04:15 Kevin

So these days I keep Christmas kind of kind of relaxing.

00:04:15 Jack

I see.

00:04:17 Kevin

I was very surprised though, when I came to Korea because in America.

00:04:20 Kevin

So Christmas is very much a family holiday, but here in Korea it's very much a couples holiday.

00:04:26 Kevin

Boyfriends and girlfriends go out to dinner, you know, on on Christmas.

00:04:30 Kevin

So my first Christmas in Korea was quite lonely because I only been here a short time.

00:04:34 Kevin

I didn't have too many friends and suddenly there's all these couples walking around everywhere, yeah?

00:04:41 Xochitl

The the other thing about Chris Christmas in Korea is they have the Christmas cake so.

00:04:47 Xochitl

If you, I've never I've.

00:04:48 Xochitl

Never heard of that before like I didn't know.

00:04:51 Xochitl

We didn't have the idea of the Christmas.

00:04:53 Xochitl

Take until I came to Korea, and so couples will go out and they'll go to a bakery and buy a a Christmas cake and then eat that together.

00:04:57 발표자

Right?

00:05:04 Xochitl

Not the whole cake, but you know you'll.

00:05:06 Kevin

Right?

00:05:06 Xochitl

Give that as a.

00:05:07 Xochitl

Present or bring it home to your family, yeah.

00:05:10 Kevin

Mm-hmm, So what do you do?

00:05:10 Xochitl

Pretty cool.

00:05:11 Kevin

And he's like.

00:05:12 Kevin

A daughter of course at home, so I assume that you do a bit more christmasy thing.

00:05:16 Kevin

For her.

00:05:17 Xochitl

Well, growing up when I was young we did the big Christmas thing like you know the real tree with all the decorations and lights and Christmas.

00:05:26 Kevin

I don't know.

00:05:26 Kevin

We never had a real tree we had.

00:05:28 Kevin

A plastic one that we would build.

00:05:28 Xochitl

Oh, you had a plastic one?

00:05:29 Kevin

Every year, yeah, but it fun still building.

00:05:30 Xochitl

No, that was.

00:05:31 Kevin

It Every year putting it together.

00:05:32 Xochitl

Yeah, that's unacceptable by Minnesota standards because there's so many trees up there.

00:05:38 Xochitl

You know?

00:05:39 Kevin

I was in Arizona with there's no Christmas trees and.

00:05:41 Xochitl

Yeah, you could have a Christmas cactus maybe.

00:05:43 Xochitl

But yeah, Christmas tree.

00:05:43 Kevin

Right?

00:05:45 Jack

You're right, my Christmas tree.

00:05:45 Xochitl

It's hard.

00:05:50 Xochitl

But ever since I moved to, you know, moved to Asia and they moved to Korea.

00:05:55 Xochitl

Uh, like you said, Kevin Christmas is not as big of a of an event.

00:06:00 Xochitl

Like it's not.

00:06:01 Xochitl

As big of a family event.

00:06:02 Kevin

It's not a family thing, really.

00:06:03 Xochitl

Yeah, it's more of a couples holiday, and so I went out.

00:06:06Xochitl

My daughter was young.

00:06:08Xochitl

We got a fake.

00:06:09Xochitl

Tree not not a real tree.

00:06:11Xochitl

And we would decorate it.

00:06:12Xochitl

And and and I would stay up till 2:00 o'clock in the morning build, putting together some ridiculous doll house.

00:06:19Xochitl

You know, that was some giant dollhouse and.

00:06:23Xochitl

So many instructions and so difficult.

00:06:25Kevin

She could.

00:06:25Xochitl

To put together.

00:06:26Kevin

Wake up in the morning and and find it.

00:06:28Xochitl

Yes, so she could wake up and then she would have, you know, a A million presents because grandparents and and and grandmas center stuff and.

00:06:36Xochitl

But as my daughter's gotten older, uh, she just you know asks us to buy her something, you know?

00:06:43Xochitl

Just take me shopping and it's just they're really like.

00:06:44Kevin

Right?

00:06:47Xochitl

You know we've we just cut might watch like a Christmas movie.

00:06:51Xochitl

We might go out to eat in a restaurant on Christmas Day.

00:06:53Xochitl

I didn't even put the tree up this year.

00:06:56Xochitl

Umm so yeah.

00:06:58Xochitl

So really there, the Christmas spirit is all just uh, when I go to the mall or something.

00:07:05Xochitl

You know that's where I.

00:07:06Xochitl

I feel a little bit of the Christmas spirit, but it's not.

00:07:09Xochitl

It's not that feeling I had when.

00:07:11Xochitl

I was a kid so.

00:07:12Kevin

Yeah, I mean being a kid is different, but also just being a kid in America there's just Christmas everywhere.

00:07:18Kevin

You know, every store, every mall, every street you drive down.

00:07:23Kevin

There's Christmas decorations just literally everywhere there's Christmas things so.

00:07:29Kevin

It feels like.

00:07:31Jack

Kids just have the most fun on Christmas.

00:07:33Jack

I feel like because I was at a Posada like couple of days ago and that's basically a Christmas party.

00:07:34Kevin

That's true.

00:07:41Jack

The kids were having such a great time and I just kind of wanted to go home the whole time and I.

00:07:45Jack

Just really missed.

00:07:46Jack

Being a kid because they were playing.

00:07:47Jack

With their friends and they were smashing a pinata which is a big thing.

00:07:50Jack

Dude here for Posadas and uh yeah.

00:07:54Jack

I mean they had a great time but adults were all just kind of.

00:07:56 Jack

Like yeah.

00:07:59 Xochitl

Yeah, you you.

00:08:01 Xochitl

You once you have when you get to relive it a little bit when you when you have a kid.

00:08:05 Xochitl

When you become a parent, you get to kind of.

00:08:10 Xochitl

We in English.

00:08:10 Xochitl

We say vicariously like through through my.

00:08:13 Kevin

That's a tough word.

00:08:14 Kevin

It's a good word.

00:08:14 Xochitl

That's a big one.

00:08:15 Xochitl

Yeah, it's a big vocabulary word, but vicariously just means living in experience.

00:08:20 Xochitl

Through another person.

00:08:22 Xochitl

So through my daughters when she was young I got to kind of experience Christmas again.

00:08:28 Xochitl

As a child I.

00:08:29 Xochitl

I remembered what it felt like.

00:08:31 Xochitl

And and maybe that'll happen to me one more time when I become a grandparent, you know, like something like that, but but yeah.

00:08:39 Jack

As any rule.

00:08:41 Xochitl

Yeah so.

00:08:41 Jack

Sorry, I just thought of that like my grandparents only seemed so happy with us on Christmas.

00:08:47 Jack

So yeah, that is nice for me.

00:08:50 Jack

I feel like it's become a little less fun because since I live since I've started living independently, I kind of make all the Christmas food and stuff.

00:09:00 Jack

So it's nice.

00:09:01 Jack

But it's really exhausting.

00:09:03 Kevin

Yeah, well, it's a lot of holidays as well.

00:09:05 Kevin

It's it's fun to enjoy when you're a kid.

00:09:07 Kevin

You just get to eat all the good food and play.

00:09:10 Kevin

But when you're an adult, you know you you have to do all the work to prepare.

00:09:14 Kevin

All of that good food.

00:09:14 Xochitl

And the cleaning too, which is.

00:09:15 Kevin

And the cleaning.

00:09:16 Xochitl

Huge you know? Yeah yeah.

00:09:18 Kevin

Yes for sure.

00:09:20 Kevin

Nice, so I guess for everybody out there listening, I mean we know that not every country or not every culture does Christmas in the same way, but Christmas kind of has become an international thing.

00:09:32 Kevin

It's it's more than just like the the religious reasons like it's just kind of a.

00:09:38 Kevin

A fun holiday for itself.

00:09:39 Kevin

What do you do for Christmas?

00:09:41Kevin

Does Santa come?

00:09:42Kevin

To you.

00:09:43Kevin

In Korea, I know there's no chimneys, so Santa just comes through the window I guess.

00:09:48Kevin

What do you do for Christmas?

00:09:49Kevin

How do you feel about Christmas?

00:09:51Kevin

What's fun about?

00:09:52Kevin

It and tell us your stories and our our social media and would love to hear from you.

00:09:57Kevin

👍

👍

So happy Christmas.

00:09:59Jack

Merry Christmas, happy holidays.

00:10:02 Music

Can you dig it?