

Santa makes changes for reindeer and elves

25th December, 2012



Santa Claus has decided to get with the times and make several key changes to how he operates. Press reports say he will start to

incorporate the latest technology in the manufacture and delivery of his gifts and create better working conditions for his reindeers and elves. He will also concentrate on getting in better shape and trimming his bulging waistline. Santa has come under increasing pressure from Internet stores in recent years and is finding it increasingly difficult to compete. Many children are sending their Christmas wish lists to sites like Amazon.com instead of writing to him. His workshop has also struggled to keep up with the latest cutting-edge production methods used in digital toys and games.

Santa's nine reindeer and group of elves will now all work considerably fewer hours. There have been concerns for centuries about making them work non-stop over the Christmas period and fly around the world all night. The elves will now oversee a brand-new, state-of-the-art, gift-making facility at Santa's workshop. This will reduce their working load to just one hour a day. In another technological revolution, Santa's sleigh will be powered by a new environmentally-friendly fuel. Animal rights activists will be happy that Rudolph and his helpers will now sit in the sleigh instead of pulling it. These changes also mean Santa will have more time to spend working out at his North Pole gym and shed a few kilos.

Sources: *North Pole Times* / *SantaLand Gazette*

Writing

It is wrong for parents to lie to small children by telling them Santa Claus exists. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Santa / changes / latest technology / gifts / getting in shape / waistline / pressure / reindeer / working non-stop / revolution / environmentally friendly / North Pole

True / False

- a) Santa is going high-tech to make life easier for his helpers. T / F
- b) Santa is also focusing on losing some weight. T / F
- c) The Internet has meant more and more kids are writing to Santa. T / F
- d) Santa has found it difficult to keep up with making modern games. T / F
- e) Santa has reduced the working hours of his reindeer and elves. T / F
- f) The elves will work just one hour a week in future. T / F
- g) Santa has found robot reindeer to pull his sleigh instead of Rudolph. T / F
- h) Santa will have less time for the gym. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. key | a. reducing |
| 2. incorporate | b. supervise |
| 3. trimming | c. innovative |
| 4. bulging | d. exercising |
| 5. cutting-edge | e. increasing |
| 6. considerably | f. important |
| 7. oversee | g. lose |
| 8. facility | h. include |
| 9. working out | i. greatly |
| 10. shed | j. center / centre |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the history of Santa Claus?
- b) What do you think it's like being an elf working in Santa's workshop?
- c) How does Santa manage to deliver all his presents around the world on Christmas Eve?
- d) Does the focus on Santa take away the real meaning of Christmas?
- e) What would you do if you visited Santa in the North Pole?
- f) What do you think the reindeer and elves think of Santa?
- g) What questions would you like to ask Santa?
- h) What do you think his answers might be?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. get with | a. load |
| 2. incorporate the | b. edge production methods |
| 3. trimming his | c. gift-making facility |
| 4. finding it increasingly | d. a few kilos |
| 5. the latest cutting- | e. the times |
| 6. work considerably | f. activists |
| 7. oversee a brand-new, state-of-the-art, | g. latest technology |
| 8. reduce their working | h. fewer hours |
| 9. animal rights | i. bulging waistline |
| 10. shed | j. difficult to compete |

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the name 'Santa Claus'?
- What do you think of the concept of Santa Claus?
- What else can Santa do to get with the times?
- What do you think of the way Santa delivers his gifts?
- Is a fat Santa a good role model for kids?
- Do you think the Internet is decreasing or increasing Santa's popularity?
- Is it OK for parents to lie to children and say Santa exists?
- What message should be associated with Santa's image?

Spelling

- velsrea key changes
- rapioonrcte the latest technology
- ttorcaecnen on getting in better shape
- trimming his bulging ilwtasein
- finding it rnynaelsicig difficult
- ggesdultr to keep up
- work relsbncyoadi fewer hours
- there have been concerns for ncireuset
- gift-making ftciayli
- another technological ivontuerlo
- a new eilyennrnovlmat-friendly fuel
- animal rights iaittcssv

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. e	5. c
6. i	7. b	8. j	9. d	10. g

Role Play

Santa - You think you are one of the most important characters in children's lives. Tell the others three reasons why. You hate the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. You have done your best to be a more up-to-date Santa so kids of today will love you more. Amazon is only interested in profit, not kids.

Amazon.com boss - You think Santa is too out of date for today's kids. Tell the others three reasons why. You think kids like Amazon.com better than Santa. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell Santa he really needs to change a lot more to stay popular, and that Amazon's wish lists are better for kids.

A kid - You love Santa. Tell the others three reasons why. You think Santa is becoming more and more popular. Tell Amazon's boss why Santa will always be bigger than the Internet. Tell him/her that Santa cares and that Internet stores don't. You don't believe the bad things Rudolph says about Santa.

Rudolph - You have studied the rivalry between Santa and the Internet very closely. You think Santa is still most popular. Tell the others three reasons why. You think stores like Amazon are making Christmas too commercial. You have three bad things to say about Santa. Tell the others what they are.

Speaking – Santa Stuff

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| • Rudolph | • his clothes |
| • yo-ho-ho | • you can send him a wish list |
| • his beard | • his message for kids |
| • his elves | • the presents he brings |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.