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## **Level 0**

# **Christmas becoming less religious in U.S.**

**20th December, 2013**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-0.html>

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**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-0.html>

Christmas in the USA is now less religious. Nine out of ten Americans celebrate Christmas, but half think it is a cultural holiday. Many people answered questions about Christmas. Younger people think Christmas is not a religious holiday. Fewer young people go to church. Fewer believe in the story of the birth of Jesus.

People also say different things to each other nowadays. They say "Happy Holidays" and not "Merry Christmas". This is because there are many holidays at the end of December. Most Americans will watch a Christmas movie. Over half will go to church. People spend about \$914 each on Christmas. People most like being with family.

Sources: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/poll-christmas-is-a-commercial-holiday-not-a-sacred-holy-day-for-many/2013/12/17/e07cd7fa-672e-11e3-997b-9213b17dac97\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/poll-christmas-is-a-commercial-holiday-not-a-sacred-holy-day-for-many/2013/12/17/e07cd7fa-672e-11e3-997b-9213b17dac97_story.html)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/18/christmas-non-religious\\_n\\_4453828.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/18/christmas-non-religious_n_4453828.html)

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. less                   | a. people                   |
| 2. celebrate              | b. it is a cultural holiday |
| 3. half think             | c. go to church             |
| 4. answered questions     | d. holiday                  |
| 5. Younger                | e. religious                |
| 6. a religious            | f. Christmas                |
| 7. Fewer young people     | g. of Jesus                 |
| 8. the story of the birth | h. about Christmas          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. People also say different things | a. of December           |
| 2. They say "Happy Holidays" and    | b. each on Christmas     |
| 3. there are                        | c. Christmas movie       |
| 4. at the end                       | d. being with family     |
| 5. watch a                          | e. not "Merry Christmas" |
| 6. Over half will                   | f. many holidays         |
| 7. People spend about \$914         | g. to each other         |
| 8. People most like                 | h. go to church          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-0.html>

Christmas in the USA is now (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Nine out of ten Americans celebrate Christmas, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ it is a (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Many people answered questions about Christmas. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ think Christmas (5) \_\_\_\_\_ religious holiday. Fewer young people go to church. Fewer believe in the story of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

People (7) \_\_\_\_\_ things to each other nowadays. They say "(8) \_\_\_\_\_" and not "Merry Christmas". This is because (9) \_\_\_\_\_ holidays at the end of December. Most Americans (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas movie. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ go to church. People spend about \$914 each on Christmas. People (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with family.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-0.html>

Christmas in the USA is now less religious. Nine out of ten Americans celebrate Christmas, but half think it is a cultural holiday. Many people answered questions about Christmas. Younger people think Christmas is not a religious holiday. Fewer young people go to church. Fewer believe in the story of the birth of Jesus. People also say different things to each other nowadays. They say "Happy Holidays" and not "Merry Christmas". This is because there are many holidays at the end of December. Most Americans will watch a Christmas movie. Over half will go to church. People spend about \$914 each on Christmas. People most like being with family.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

