

LESSON 18 (Eighteen)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

圣诞快乐

A: Merry Christmas, Mr. Song.

S: Merry Christmas and Happy new year to you, Mr. Mo. Time flies, the beginning of the year remains in my mind, it turns to the end of the year.

A: Yes, it is. I wonder why Christmas is so popular in the world, you know I am a Buddhist in China, right now Christmas celebration is more popular than other religion else.

S: I know very little about Christianity, but I do enjoy the atmosphere and the culture of Christmas.

A: Can you share with me something about the Christmas? I am interested in learning it.

S: It is my pleasure. Christmas is a Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus, and Catholics as well. The English term Christmas means Mass on Christ's [kraist] Day, it is of fairly recent origin. It is a hallowed night. Since early 20th century, it has been a secular family holiday, celebrated by Christians and non-Christian family.

A: What do people usually do at Christmas?

S: People in many countries at Christmas can have a long holiday, normally in western countries people have 7-day plus long holiday. People would like to make good use of the Christmas season, they go traveling, go visiting friends and family relatives. Of course, they would have a big feast (banquet) to celebrate the unique holiday. Some people would like to roast a big turkey and share it with family members and neighbours.

A: Are there any fantastic activities at Christmas?

S: Yes, there are many interesting activities, among them the most popular activity is exchanging gifts. People are pleased to send elaborated Christmas cards among friends, relatives and workmates. Children are more exciting than ever, as they are expecting gifts from Santa Clause, they are told Santa Clause would slip into the house through the chimney and put the gifts into their socks. Children would find various gifts when they wake up the next morning.

A: What is Santa Clause?

S: Santa Clause is a mythical and legendary figure, who is the traditional patron of Christmas.

A: Wow, that sounds like Chinese spring festival. While we were in China, we celebrated spring festival more than any other holidays else. We also have a long holiday and have big feast, the most unique tradition at spring festival is to spread "Hongbao", (which is) a red envelope wrapped with cash, and to greet each other, saying "Happy new year", "Gong xi fa cai" in Chinese Canton.

S: Do they have any special celebrating activities at spring festival?

A: Yes, they do. They would usually have dragon lantern dancing, that is a long paper-made, section by section, with light inside, a dozen of meter long mythical dragon. They are playing dragon lantern to bless no disaster in the coming year and symbolize lucky in the coming year.

S: I like Chinese spring festival and hope someday I could visit China at spring season.

A: Sure. I like Christmas snow and the beautiful decoration at the season.

S: Have you ever heard of summer Christmas?

A: No, really? Where is it?

S: I had a summer Christmas vacation in New Zealand 3 years ago. The sunshining beach, dark blue sea water, flower-like clouds dotted in the light blue sky and warm climate, what an enjoyment it was! You had never thought of it that was Christmas Day. What beautiful memory it remains!

A: I wish I could have a summer Christmas vacation in New Zealand someday.

S: You certainly will. Don't forget to bring some Christmas gifts to me and send me Christmas cards with summer beach sightseeing dated Dec 25th.

宋先生，圣诞快乐！

莫先生。圣诞快乐，新年快乐！年初的记忆还在我脑海里，转眼又是年底了。

是啊，很快过。我觉得很奇，我是个佛教徒，圣诞节在世界上为何这样流行，看上去，现在圣诞的庆祝活动比其他宗教更流行。

我对基督教了解甚少，但是我很喜欢圣诞节的气氛和文化。

你可以和我分享一下圣诞节的知识吗？我很想学习一下。

我很乐意与你分享。圣诞节是基督教纪念耶稣诞生的节日，也包括天主教。Christmas在英语专业词汇中意思是基督日的弥撒，也就是感恩祭礼。它具有现代渊源。那是一个神圣的圣徒之夜。从20世纪出开始，它就成为一个通俗流行的家庭节日，不管基督教家庭还是非基督教家庭都庆祝这个节日。

人们在圣诞节时通常在干什么呢？

在很多国家，圣诞节会放长假。通常西方国家会有7天以上的假期。人们会充分利用这个假期，出去旅游，拜访亲戚和朋友。很自然，他们会大快朵颐；来庆祝这个神圣的节日。有些人喜欢烤一只大火鸡来款待家人和邻居。

圣诞节有什么精彩的活动吗？

有，圣诞节有很多有趣又精彩的活动。其中最流行和活动是交换圣诞礼物。人们喜欢在朋友，亲戚和同事间相互赠送精心制作的圣诞卡，小孩比任何时候都更加兴奋，因为他们期待圣诞老人的礼物。他们听说圣诞老人晚上会穿过烟囱来到屋子里然后把礼物放在袜子里面。孩子一早起来会发现各种各样的礼物。

Santa Clause 是什么？

Santa Clause 是传说中的神秘老人，他是圣诞节中的一个慈祥的赞助老人。

哇塞，那听上去好像中国的春节。我们在中国的时候，春节是比任何节日付更加隆重的节日。我们也有很长的假期，也大吃大喝，春节期间一个特别传统的活动就是分发红包。红包就是用红色的信封包有钱其中互相赠送和祝愿，说，“新春快乐，恭喜发财”。

他们有什么特别的活动来庆祝春节吗？

有，通常他们有舞龙灯的活动。那是用纸做的神话中的龙，一节一节的，有十来米长，里面点有灯，舞龙灯是来祈祷来年没有灾害和新年好运。

我喜欢中国的春节，我希望有日在春节期间去中国旅游参观。

那是必须的。我喜欢圣诞节的白雪和圣诞的漂亮的节日装饰气氛。

你听过夏日圣诞吗？

没有，真的假的？在哪儿？

3年前我在新西兰度过一个夏日圣诞。阳光灿烂的海滩，深蓝色的海水，如花似锦的白云点缀在蔚蓝的天空，暖风徐徐，好不惬意。你曾未想过这是圣诞佳节。美好的感受至今记忆犹新。

我渴望有一天能在新西兰度一个夏日圣诞！

我肯定可以的。不要忘了给我带上圣诞礼物回来，并且寄上一张海滩景色的圣诞卡上面写着 12月25日。

Like

Like 可以作喜欢的意思，是个动词，如：

I like summer and autumn in Canada.

How do you like it?

Like 可以作介词，表示“像”，如：

The lights shine like diamonds.

She looks like a Bobby.

What is the weather like today?

从句

英语有很多种从句，主要包括宾语从句，状语从句，定语从句。

本次讲宾语从句，

宾语从句，即是用一个句子作谓语动词(包括短语动词)的宾语。如：

- We determined that we'll make it.
- You'll have to judge what is right by yourself.
- Please make a comment on "do or do not, that is a question".
- Be grateful and thank to whoever helps you.
- Do you know if he will come to the zoom meeting?
- We have not decided when we would go visiting China.
- Please tell him we will leave for China the moment the pandemic is over.
- She is afraid she would loss her way in the dark forest.
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Asking and answering practice:

- Do you celebrate Christmas in China?
- What do you usually do at Christmas?
- Do you enjoy Christmas holidays?
- Which one do you like best, the Chinese spring festival or Christmas?
- What do you usually do on Chinese spring festival?
- How do you like the tradition of exchanging "hongbao" on spring festival in China?
- Have you ever been to New Zealand? How do you like it?
- Have you experienced summer Christmas? Where?
- What do you usually do on Chinese spring festival in Canada?
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Homework

- Make sentences with "like".
- Make sentences with "make good use of".
- Say something you do at Christmas.
- Say something you do on Chinese spring festival.

- Say something about dragon lantern dancing.
- Ask a question.

下节课课堂练习

- 听写上节课的单词，短语和短句，如：like, Merry Christmas, make good use of, enjoy, enjoyment, spring festival, dragon lantern dancing. We are enjoying Christmas very much.
- 操练以上短语和句子。
- 听录音，跟录音朗读课文。
- 反复操练部分句子。
- 练习用英语提问和回答问题
 - What did you do at Christmas? (one sentence)
 - What do you usually do on spring festival? (one sentence)
 - Do you like dragon lantern dancing?
 - Do you exchange Christmas cards and gifts with your friends?
 - What do you write on your Christmas cards?
 - Have you ever been to any other foreign countries besides Canada?
 - Which countries have you been to besides Canada?
 - Which country do you like best in your opinion?
 - How do you celebrate Chinese spring festival in Canada? (one sentence)
 - Where are you going to spend your next Christmas?
- 抽查回答以上5个问题，（10个）