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Level 6 – 25th December, 2020

Scientist finds the 'right' way to cut Christmas cake

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition that dates back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are unaware that there is a science behind its slicing. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the optimal way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed insides as moist as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't exactly rocket science.

According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plum porridge. The plums later gave way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy. It is quite common for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer of marzipan, and then the top and sides to be coated in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake is usually decorated with an array of Christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes vary around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.

Sources: <https://www.iflscience.com/editors-blog/maths-says-theres-a-right-and-wrong-way-to-cut-christmas-cake/>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9068307/Christmas-cake-cut-without-letting-dry-according-114-year-old-study.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_cake

WARM-UPS

1. CHRISTMAS CAKE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Christmas cake. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

tradition / centuries / Christmas cake / majority / geometry / slice / rocket science
plum / raisins / fruit / common / icing / decorated / snowmen / spices / strawberries

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SCIENCE: Students A **strongly** believe we need to know the science behind everything; Students B **strongly** believe we don't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CAKES: How important are these cakes? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | How Important? | Why? |
|------------------------|----------------|------|
| Christmas cake | | |
| Wedding cake | | |
| Birthday cake | | |
| Cake for afternoon tea | | |
| Home baked cakes | | |
| Fresh cream cakes | | |

5. SEASON: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "season". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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

- Star
- Fir tree
- Reindeer
- Manger
- Holly
- Robin
- Present
- Cake

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1. date | a. An event or item that is out of the ordinary and gives great pleasure. |
| 2. festive | b. Establish when something originated from. |
| 3. vast | c. Of very great extent or quantity; immense. |
| 4. treat | d. Best or most favorable. |
| 5. geometry | e. Methodically cut up. |
| 6. optimal | f. Related to celebrations. |
| 7. dissect | g. The branch of mathematics concerned with relations of points, lines, surfaces and solids. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. gave way to | h. Provide with a layer or covering of something; covered. |
| 9. rind | i. Differ in size, amount, degree, or nature from something else of the same general class. |
| 10. loaf | j. An impressive display or range of a particular type of thing. |
| 11. coated | k. An item of food formed into an oblong or circular shape and sliced into portions. |
| 12. decorated | l. Made something look more attractive by adding extra items or images to it. |
| 13. array | m. Was replaced or superseded by. |
| 14. vary | n. The tough outer skin of certain fruit, especially citrus fruit (lemon, orange, grapefruit, etc.). |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The article says Christmas cake is thousands of years old. **T / F**
- b. A professor of geometry tested the best ways to cut a cake. **T / F**
- c. A professor decided it was best to cut the cake into quarters. **T / F**
- d. The article says Christmas cake science is like rocket science. **T / F**
- e. Christmas cake started life in England as a plum porridge. **T / F**
- f. The fruit used in Christmas cakes is often soaked in brandy. **T / F**
- g. Christmas cakes often have a layer of icing on them a centimetre thick. **T / F**
- h. Japanese Christmas cakes contain a lot of treacle. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. tradition | a. left over |
| 2. vast | b. theories |
| 3. hypotheses | c. adorned |
| 4. dissect | d. was replaced by |
| 5. remaining | e. wide |
| 6. gave way to | f. straightforward |
| 7. coated | g. cut |
| 8. decorated | h. differ |
| 9. vary | i. custom |
| 10. simple | j. covered |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Christmas cake is a tradition that | a. science |
| 2. people who celebrate the festive | b. hypotheses |
| 3. enjoy a slice of their favourite | c. Christmassy symbols |
| 4. tested several | d. season |
| 5. it isn't exactly rocket | e. way to raisins |
| 6. The plums later gave | f. cream |
| 7. The fruit is often soaked | g. dates back centuries |
| 8. decorated with an array of | h. around the world |
| 9. Christmas cakes vary | i. seasonal treat |
| 10. simple sponge cakes with whipped | j. in rum or brandy |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition that (1) _____ back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The (2) _____ majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are unaware that there is a science behind its (3) _____. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied mathematics and (4) _____ at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the (5) _____ way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to (6) _____ the cake while leaving the exposed insides as moist as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the (7) _____ halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't (8) _____ rocket science.

optimal
slicing
remaining
dates
dissect
exactly
vast
geometry

According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English (9) _____ that began as plum porridge. The plums later gave way to raisins, sultanas, orange (10) _____ and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy. It is quite (11) _____ for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a (12) _____ of marzipan, and then the top and sides to be (13) _____ in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake is usually decorated with an (14) _____ of Christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes (15) _____ around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with (16) _____ cream and strawberries.

layer
whipped
rind
array
common
tradition
vary
coated

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

- 1) a tradition that dates back centuries, for people who celebrate _____
 - a. the festive seasonal
 - b. the festive seasoned
 - c. the festive season
 - d. the festive seasons
- 2) The vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite _____
 - a. seasonal threat
 - b. seasonal treat
 - c. seasonal treaty
 - d. seasonal tweet
- 3) Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied mathematics _____
 - a. end geo-metre
 - b. and gym metre
 - c. end G-symmetry
 - d. and geometry
- 4) the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining _____
 - a. calves together
 - b. halves together
 - c. haves together
 - d. shelves together
- 5) However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't _____
 - a. exacting rocket science
 - b. exact real rocket science
 - c. exactly rocket science
 - d. exact sky rocket science
- 6) According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began _____
 - a. as plum porridge
 - b. was plum porridge
 - c. has plum porridge
 - d. that's plum porridge
- 7) plums later gave way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and _____
 - a. other dried fruit
 - b. other drier fruit
 - c. other dries fruit
 - d. other druid fruit
- 8) in a layer of marzipan, and then the top and sides to be _____
 - a. coat it in icing
 - b. coat tidy icing
 - c. coat tiding icing
 - d. coated in icing
- 9) The top of the cake is usually decorated with an array of _____
 - a. Christmas see symbols
 - b. Christmas sea symbols
 - c. Christmassy symbols
 - d. Christmas C-symbols
- 10) Christmas cakes vary around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of _____
 - a. tree call and spice is
 - b. treacle and spices
 - c. tree calling spices
 - d. tree call end spices

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition (1) _____ centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The (2) _____ those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are unaware that there is a science (3) _____. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the (4) _____ cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed (5) _____ as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't (6) _____.

According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plum porridge. The plums (7) _____ to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is (8) _____ rum or brandy. It is quite common for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer of marzipan, and then the (9) _____ to be coated in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake (10) _____ with an array of Christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes (11) _____ world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they (12) _____ cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

1. How long does Christmas cake date back?
2. What is behind cake cutting that people might not know about?
3. What did a professor test?
4. What condition should the cake be in as much as possible after it is cut?
5. What kind of science does the article say cake-cutting science is not?
6. What did Christmas cake begin as?
7. What is the dried fruit of a Christmas caked soaked in?
8. How thick can the icing on top of a cake be?
9. Where does the article say Christmas cakes vary?
10. What are Christmas cakes in Sri Lanka full of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

- 1) How long does Christmas cake date back?
 - a) millennia
 - b) centuries
 - c) decades
 - d) years
- 2) What is behind cake cutting that people might not know about?
 - a) raisins
 - b) master chefs
 - c) cooking
 - d) science
- 3) What did a professor test?
 - a) several hypotheses
 - b) a new recipe
 - c) a modern style of cake
 - d) a cake's sweetness
- 4) What condition should the cake be in as much as possible after it is cut?
 - a) as dry as possible
 - b) as sweet as possible
 - c) as moist as possible
 - d) as sugary as possible
- 5) What kind of science does the article say cake-cutting science is not?
 - a) physics
 - b) rocket science
 - c) nutrition
 - d) cooking science
- 6) What did Christmas cake begin as?
 - a) plum porridge
 - b) sweet bread
 - c) a rich person's delicacy
 - d) birthday cake
- 7) What is the dried fruit of a Christmas cake soaked in?
 - a) sugared water
 - b) milk
 - c) rum and brandy
 - d) treacle
- 8) How thick can the icing on top of a cake be?
 - a) over a centimetre thick
 - b) very thick
 - c) up to three centimetres
 - d) no more than 5mm
- 9) Where does the article say Christmas cakes vary?
 - a) around the world
 - b) in the North Pole
 - c) northern Europe
 - d) in the United Kingdom
- 10) What are Christmas cakes in Sri Lanka full of?
 - a) banana and pomegranate
 - b) mango and coconut
 - c) strawberries
 - d) treacle and spices

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Role A – Star

You think a star is the best Christmas symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their symbols. Also, tell the others which is the least Christmassy of these (and why): a reindeer, a present or holly.

Role B – Reindeer

You think a reindeer is the best Christmas symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their symbols. Also, tell the others which is the least Christmassy of these (and why): a star, a present or holly.

Role C – Present

You think a present is the best Christmas symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their symbols. Also, tell the others which is the least Christmassy of these (and why): a reindeer, a star or holly.

Role D – Holly

You think holly is the best Christmas symbol. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their symbols. Also, tell the others which is the least Christmassy of these (and why): a reindeer, a present or a star.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'Christmas' and 'cake'.

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Christmas | cake |
|------------------|-------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dates• vast• science• focused• moist• rocket | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• began• way• common• thick• symbols• vary |
|---|---|

CHRISTMAS CAKE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Christmas cake in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

CHRISTMAS CAKE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Christmas'?
3. What do you think of Christmas?
4. How do people celebrate Christmas in your country?
5. What is the meaning of Christmas?
6. What is your favourite seasonal food?
7. What do you think of festive cakes?
8. Is it important to know the science behind slicing cakes?
9. What do you think of the professor's solution?
10. What does "It isn't exactly rocket science" mean?

Scientist finds the 'right' way to cut Christmas cake – 25th December, 2020
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CHRISTMAS CAKE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'cake'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are your country's favourite food traditions?
15. What do you know about dried fruit?
16. Do you think English Christmas cake sounds delicious?
17. What are the best Christmassy symbols?
18. Should there be a global, standard Christmas cake?
19. Should we be able to eat Christmas cake every day?
20. What questions would you like to ask the professor?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition that (1) _____ back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal (2) _____ are unaware that there is a science behind its slicing. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of (3) _____ mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the optimal way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused (4) _____ how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed insides as (5) _____ as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining (6) _____ together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't exactly rocket science.

According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plum porridge. The plums later (7) _____ way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often (8) _____ in rum or brandy. It is quite common for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer of marzipan, and then the top and sides to be (9) _____ in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake is usually decorated with an (10) _____ of Christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes (11) _____ around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with (12) _____ cream and strawberries.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) ages | (b) years | (c) previous | (d) dates |
| 2. | (a) throat | (b) threat | (c) test | (d) treat |
| 3. | (a) applicable | (b) applied | (c) appliance | (d) apply |
| 4. | (a) in | (b) an | (c) on | (d) at |
| 5. | (a) misty | (b) mast | (c) moist | (d) most |
| 6. | (a) halves | (b) half | (c) halving | (d) haves |
| 7. | (a) did | (b) gave | (c) took | (d) did |
| 8. | (a) soaked | (b) poked | (c) coked | (d) locked |
| 9. | (a) jacketed | (b) coated | (c) vested | (d) shirted |
| 10. | (a) alloy | (b) awry | (c) array | (d) airy |
| 11. | (a) wary | (b) nary | (c) vary | (d) awry |
| 12. | (a) thrashed | (b) flogged | (c) lashed | (d) whipped |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a tradition that dates back tieeucnsr
2. people who celebrate the ftvesie season
3. a professor of dlpapie mathematics
4. tested several tposehhyse
5. leaving two clrsimeiecs
6. push the iniamnerg halves together

Paragraph 2

7. plum idreopgr
8. The fruit is often dkeosa in rum
9. a layer of mrpzaian
10. The top of the cake is usually recotdade
11. an array of shsisCtryma symbols
12. they are full of retecla and spices

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plum porridge. The plums later gave
- () unaware that there is a science behind its slicing. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied
- () way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy. It is quite common
- () and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.
- () insides as moist as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the
- (**1**) Christmas cake is a tradition that dates back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive
- () be coated in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top
- () remaining halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't exactly rocket science.
- () of the cake is usually decorated with an array of Christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen
- () way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed
- () season. The vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are
- () for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer of marzipan, and then the top and sides to
- () mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the optimal
- () and women. Christmas cakes vary around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

1. is tradition back a dating centuries . Christmas cake
2. who it . The of those enjoy vast majority
3. slicing . its that Unaware there science is behind
4. cut way the Hypotheses to optimal on it .
5. rocket it He isn't would exactly science . admit
6. that porridge . English tradition began An as plum
7. coating Sugar be a can that centimetre thick .
8. of an array with Christmassy Decorated symbols .
9. full Lanka they treacle . are Sri In of
10. with simple are They cakes whipped sponge cream .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition that *dates / dating* back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The *vast / past* majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal *threat / treat* are unaware that there is a science *behind / beyond* its slicing. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of *apply / applied* mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several *hypotheses / hypothesis* on the optimal way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to *digest / dissect* the cake while leaving the exposed insides as *moist / moisture* as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the *remaining / remainder* halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't *exactly / exact* rocket science.

According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English *traditional / tradition* that began as plum porridge. The plums later *take / gave* way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other *drying / dried* fruit. The fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy. It is quite *commonly / common* for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer *on / of* marzipan, and then the top and sides to be coated in icing. The icing is a *hardy / hardened*, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake is *usual / usually* decorated with an array of Christmassy *symbols / symbolic* like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes *vary / very* around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with *whipped / whooped* cream and strawberries.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Chr_stm_s c_k_ _s _ tr_d_t__n th_t d_t_s b_ck
c_nt_r__s, f_r p__pl_ wh_ c_l_br_t_ th_ f_st_v_
s__s_n. Th_ v_st m_j_r_ty _f th_s_ wh_ _nj_y _ sl_c_
_f th__r f_v__r_t_ s__s_n_l tr__t _r_ _n_w_r_ th_t
th_r_ _s _ sc__nc_ b_h_nd _ts sl_c_ng. Dr Chr_s
B_dd, _ pr_f_ss_r _f _ppl__d m_th_m_t_cs _nd
g__m_ry _t tw_ _K _n_v_rs_t__s, t_st_d s_v_r_l
hyp_th_s_s _n th_ _pt_m_l w_y t_ c_t _ Chr_stm_s
c_k_ _nt_ sl_c_s. H_ f_c_s_d _n h_w t_ d_ss_ct th_
c_k_ wh_l_ l__v_ng th_ _xp_s_d _ns_d_s _s m__st _s
p_ss_bl_. H_s s_l_t__n w_s t_ c_t th_ c_k_ _cr_ss th_
m_ddl_, l__v_ng tw_ s_m_c_rcl_s, th_n c_t sl_c_s _nd
p_sh th_ r_m__n_ng h_lv_s t_g_th_r. H_ s__d: "t
w_rks." H_w_v_r, p_rh_ps h_ w__ld _dm_t th_t _t
_sn't _x_ctly r_ck_t sc__nc_.

_cc_r_d_ng t_ W_k_p_d__, Chr_stm_s c_k_ _s _n _ngl_sh
tr_d_t__n th_t b_g_n _s pl_m p_rr_dg_. Th_ pl_ms
l_t_r g_v_ w_y t_ r__s_ns, s_lt_n_s, _r_ng_ r_nd _nd
_th_r dr__d fr__t. Th_ fr__t _s _ft_n s__k_d _n r_m
_r br_ndy. _t _s q__t_ c_mmm_n f_r th_ fr__ty l__f
p_rt _f th_ c_k_ t_ b_ c_v_r_d _n _ l_y_r _f
m_rz_p_n, _nd th_n th_ t_p _nd s_d_s t_ b_ c__t_d
_n _c_ng. Th_ _c_ng _s _ h_r_d_n_d, wh_t_ s_g_r
c__t_ng th_t c_n b_ _v_r _ c_nt_m_tr_ th_ck. Th_ t_p
f th c_k_ _s _s__lly d_c_r_t_d w_th _n _rr_y _f
Chr_stm_ssy symb_ls l_k_ f_r tr__s _r sn_wm_n _nd
w_m_n. Chr_stm_s c_k_s v_ry _r__nd th_ w_rld. _n
Sr_ L_nk_, th_y _r_ f_ll _f tr__cl_ _nd sp_c_s. _n
J_p_n, th_y _r_ s_mpl_ sp_ng_ c_k_s w_th wh_pp_d
cr__m _nd str_wb_rr__s.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

christmas cake is a tradition that dates back centuries for people who celebrate the festive season the vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are unaware that there is a science behind its slicing dr chris budd a professor of applied mathematics and geometry at two uk universities tested several hypotheses on the optimal way to cut a christmas cake into slices he focused on how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed insides as moist as possible his solution was to cut the cake across the middle leaving two semicircles then cut slices and push the remaining halves together he said it works however perhaps he would admit that it isnt exactly rocket science

according to wikipedia christmas cake is an english tradition that began as plum porridge the plums later gave way to raisins sultanas orange rind and other dried fruit the fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy it is quite common for the fruity loaf part of the cake to be covered in a layer of marzipan and then the top and sides to be coated in icing the icing is a hardened white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick the top of the cake is usually decorated with an array of christmassy symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women christmas cakes vary around the world in sri lanka they are full of treacle and spices in japan they are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream and strawberries

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake.html>

Christmas cake is a tradition that dates back centuries, for people who celebrate the festive season. The vast majority of those who enjoy a slice of their favourite seasonal treat are unaware that there is a science behind its slicing. Dr Chris Budd, a professor of applied mathematics and geometry at two UK universities, tested several hypotheses on the optimal way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on how to dissect the cake while leaving the exposed insides as moist as possible. His solution was to cut the cake across the middle, leaving two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining halves together. He said: "It works." However, perhaps he would admit that it isn't exactly rocket science. According to Wikipedia, Christmas cake is an English tradition that began as plump porridge. The plum later gave way to raisins, sultanas, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in rum or brandy. It is quite common for the fruit to be covered in a layer of marzipan, and then the top and sides to be coated in icing. The icing is a hardened, white sugar coating that can be over a centimetre thick. The top of the cake is usually decorated with an array of Christmas symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes vary around the world. In Sri Lanka, they are full of treacle and spices. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHRISTMAS CAKE: Make a poster about Christmas cake. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ALL YEAR: Write a magazine article about having Christmas cake available every day of the year. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on Christmas cake. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on cake. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c F d F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Centuries
- Science
- Several hypotheses
- As moist as possible
- Rocket science
- Plum porridge
- Rum and brandy
- Over a centimetre thick
- Around the world
- Treacle and spices

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

- Christmas cake is a tradition dating back centuries.
- The vast majority of those who enjoy it.
- Unaware that there is science behind its slicing.
- Hypotheses on the optimal way to cut it.
- He would admit it isn't exactly rocket science.
- An English tradition that began as plum porridge.
- Sugar coating that can be a centimetre thick.
- Decorated with an array of Christmassy symbols.
- In Sri Lanka they are full of treacle.
- They are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)