



# STILL SMILING 2022



## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EDITION

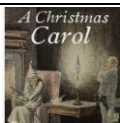
Some Christmas and New Year poems plus jokes, cartoons, quizzes, political anagrams, and dingbats. Contributions are from various sources, including The Daily Mail and Start at 60 publication

Christmas is truly  
a magical time.  
It makes all my  
money disappear!

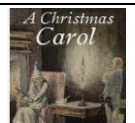


### THE VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS

The very first Christmas was a basic kind of thing. Although maybe they heard the Herald Angels sing. There were no films on the telly, no decorated tree. No roast or Xmas pudding, no pretty lights to see. No tinsel or baubles, no cards upon a string. No carols on the radio, not much of anything. Not a single cracker, no stockings on the shelf. No mistletoe or holly, no Santa Claus or elf. No luxury Hotel to visit, no chairs or even beds. Just a large cold manger to lay their weary heads. No internet or Amazon. No shops to browse around. All they had was hay scattered on the ground. The first Christmas was as simple as could be. Joseph, Mary, Jesus with a thought for you and me. They spoke of love and kindness to the likes of you and me. And if everyone had listened, a better world we'd see.



### DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2020 AND 2021



Whilst he slept on Christmas Eve, a vision did appear. A plague Doctor with a ghostly look, it made him quake with fear. It shimmered in the cold dark room, then in a deep voice it spoke and said 3 aspirations would appear before he woke. And sure enough some hours later a ghost came into view. It wore a mask and tattered robe said 'I am here for you'. I am the ghost of Christmas past, I'll jog your memory. Remind you how it used to be when we were Covid free. He showed a table laid for lots, the meal had just begun. All ages, parents, children, grans, all having lots of fun. Ate Brussel sprouts, turkey too, pulled crackers and drank wine. A lovely Christmas lunch and everything was fine. The ghost of Christmas Future came and rattled rusty chains. A graveyard full of stones and some grisly remains. Whole families were laid to rest, interred in the same place. So much devastation they fast ran out of space. The man was stanned and asked. 'How did this come to pass?' The ghost turned and replied 'they wouldn't wear a mask'. They figured it was all a hoax, cooked up by those in power. But then the body count rode up, increasing every hour. The ghost of Christmas present was the last one to appear. It said 'I'm going to tell you of how you all got here' You're standing on a precipice, it could go either way. Do you mask up and fight for life or look the other way? The man woke to a light-filled room a sunny Christmas Day. He donned his mask and got on his knees to pray. He spread the word, gave masks out, what a difference it all made. And slowly Covid fell and the bug began to fade. The vaccinations saw it off, infections now were low. It lost its strength and petered out, it had nowhere to go. But will we learn a lesson from these awful tragic years. Vaccination is the key to alleviate our fears. So, if vaccinations are the key, how can we hesitate? If not, I fear for that mankind it could be just too late.

### CRIMBO LIMBO

**CRIMBO LIMBO**  
(NOUN)

1. THE NEVER ENDING SUNDAY BETWEEN  
BOXING DAY AND NEW YEARS EVE.

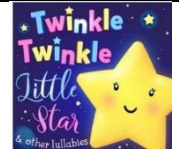
I'm in that Crimbo Limbo, twix Christmas and New Year. I forget which day it is or even what's the year?  
I'm full of festive goodies as I take a swig of rum, and another glass of brandy is swirling round my tum.  
A mince pie or some Christmas cake, it doesn't bother me. Just put some food upon my plate and happy I will be.  
Another wadge of pudding, the last cracker needs a tug. I may not know what day it is, but I think I need a hug.  
Time is now suspended, whilst this Crimbo Limbo's here. I just don't care what time it is, what month or even year!

## SORRY FOR SANTA



I feel sorry for Santa, boo hoo, having so much at Christmas to do.  
I hope all goes planned at his home in Lapland and he doesn't get the dreaded flu.  
I feel sorry for Santa with that sack, having to climb down the stack.  
It's more unpleasant the bigger the present, please Santa don't hurt your back.  
I feel sorry for Santa that's true and his elderly helpers too.  
For a man of his age still earning a wage let's hope a big pension is due.  
I feel sorry for Santa, but wait. There are mince pies for him on a plate.  
All those glasses of sherry, no wonder he's merry and his waist is a wide 48.

## TWINKLE TWINKLE



Twinkle twinkle little star, how I wonder where you are. You are there at night, in day time turn off your light.  
I wrote to Santa Claus to say. Hope you'll shine on Christmas Day. You are the star, the 3 wise men saw from afar.  
So I pray to see you shine on Christmas day. Then people on this planet might, all join in peace and cease to fight.

## SHARING CHRISTMAS



Christmas is forever, not for just one day, For loving, sharing, giving, must not be put away.  
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.  
Christmas isn't just candle-light and cheer. It's thoughtfulness and kindness and peace throughout the year

## SOBER SANTA



A policeman stopped old Santa late one Christmas Eve. Said PC to old Santa, 'you've been drinking I believe'.  
'Please blow into this plastic bag and see if I'm not right. But Santa Claus insisted 'I've not had a drop all night'.  
He blew into the bag and the test showed not a drop had passed into his body which confused the traffic cop  
The policeman said with quite a frown. Then why on earth did you nearly knock me down?  
Santa's response was 'I never drink this day, or touch the booze at any time whilst riding on my sleigh.  
'It's not my doing' Santa said it's Rudolph's fault you see. He guzzles down the sherry the children leave for me.  
My round is done in half the time, it only takes a jiffy, to go round all the houses when Rudolph is so squiffy.  
The policeman noted all this down and left them with a warning. I'll let you off this time as it's almost Christmas morning.  
Eventually he did relax and I think he even smiled' Be on your way then Santa and please each eager child'  
So now you know why Rudolph has a nose just like a cherry. Also I hope, like Rudolph, your Christmas will be merry.

## YULETIDE GRINCH



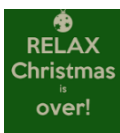
Old James he was a misery and no one called him Jim. He never spoke to anyone so no one spoke to him.  
And when folk wished him Christmas cheer. He'd grunt and frown and shrug and sneer.  
His parents died at Christmas so many years before. But no one knew and that is why this time of year is raw.  
His childhood had been lonely and Christmas always sad as all his earlier memories had been extremely bad.  
His loneliness emphasised his constant misery. Until one day he stood before the village Christmas tree.  
A small girl slipped her hand in his and asked him 'why so sad?' He managed a small smile as she ran to Mum and Dad.  
They asked him then to come and share their home, their joy, their Christmas fare.  
For now he hoped that Christmas cheer would turn out well this year.  
H thanked them as he walked towards the door. For he'd had a Happy Christmas that he'd never had before.

## SANTA'S REINDEER



Santa needs new reindeer, the first bunch has grown old. Dasher has arthritis; Comet hates the cold.  
Prancer's sick of staring at Dancer's big behind. Cupid married Blitzen and Donder lost his mind.  
Dancer's mad at Vixen for stepping on his toes. Vixen's being thrown out 'cos she laughed at Rudolph's nose.  
If you are a reindeer we hope you will apply. There is just one tricky part: You must know how to fly.

## CHRISTMAS IS OVER



Christmas is over, the guests have departed. Now to write my thank-you notes they've all been so kind hearted.  
I got some socks and also some exotic scent. Also got a shopping bag, I suppose it was well meant.  
I got a book of Shakespeare plays, which had inserts from the library and had seen some better days.  
The office staff had bought me several bars of soap, although I would have preferred to have them on a rope.  
So the next party I'm invited to, I have the ideal gift. It's a vase in garish colours, which I can't wait to shift.

## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

A broken drum is the best Christmas present?— you can't beat it!  
 Difference in the Christmas alphabet from the normal one is that it has noel.  
 The turkey is never hungry at Christmas as he is always stuffed.  
 The elves clean Santa's sleigh after Christmas. They use Santa-tizer.  
 You know when Santa's around when you can sense his presents.  
 How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing, it was on the house!  
 Poor Santa Claus was broke. He was Saint-nickel-less.  
 Santa Claus get a parking ticket as he left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.  
 Christmas trees are fond of the past because the present's beneath them.  
 If you eat Christmas decorations, you will probably get tinsel-it is.  
 A Christmas tree's favourite singer must be Spruce Springsteen.  
 One happy Christmas tree said to the sad Christmas tree, 'lighten up!  
 The man who stole an Advent Calendar got 25 days!  
 John Lewis cancelled its Christmas nativity play owing to no prophet!  
 The snowman's favourite Christmas song was 'Freeze a jolly good fellow'.  
 Rudolph's has a favourite pop star. It's Beyon-sleigh!



**There was** a kid who didn't believe in Santa. He was a rebel without a Claus!  
 Kim Jong Un will play Santa this year. He said he fancied a Korea change!  
 When Santa walks backwards he goes "oh oh oh"  
 Santa's elves are just a bunch of subordinate Clauses.  
 If you are afraid of Santa Claus, you are probably claustrophobic.

At Christmas time, there's nothing I love more than sitting in front of a warm fire, mulled wine in hand, and singing Christmas songs until I slowly fall asleep. Maybe that's why I'm no longer a fireman.

### The twelve days of Christmas

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me: I've bought a big, fresh turkey and a Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas laughter could be heard as we ate our turkey— a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations, young and old. We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried. But we were nice warm inside — we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died, as the children fought and bickered — we had turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter. He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew. As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting. With chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips. The guests had gone, the turkey too — we dined on fish and chips.



Did you realise that Mistletoe is an aphrodisiac? The holiday decoration isn't just pretty. It's also an ancient symbol of fertility and virility—and the Druids considered it an aphrodisiac. So the next time someone cracks a joke about meeting you under the mistletoe, and wants a special Christmas kiss then you can consider yourself warned.



Playing cards held a secret During World War II. The United States Playing Card Company joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to create a very special deck of cards, but they also helped Allied prisoners of war escape from German POW camps. When wet, individual cards peeled apart to reveal maps of escape routes.



Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was originally spun from real silver, making it far from the chintzy decoration it is now. The U.S. government also once banned tinsel because it used to contain poisonous lead. But never fear; now it's just plastic. It should still be kept away from young kids and pets though, since they could still choke on it.

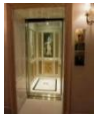




My nine-year-old son, Gabriel, had heard some rumours at school that Santa wasn't real. He approached me with a big question: "Dad, tell me the truth. Is Santa real?" I decided to tell him it was us who had bought his latest game. "Really?" he said. "You should have let Santa bring it. That way, it would have been free."



Two brothers begged their father to open one present on Christmas Eve. Their father handed them two big boxes filled with coal. "Just remember, this is only the first present." Upon opening the coal, the two boys jump up and down in excitement. Confused, the father looked at them, asking, "Why are you so excited about coal." The youngest boy looked at him in exasperation. "You said this is only the first present, and we really didn't think Santa would bring us that train."



Just before Xmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus got into the lift at the Ritz Hotel. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a £50 note lying on the lift's floor. Which one picked up the £50 note, and handed it in at reception? Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist.



One Christmas my husband put an assortment of beauty products in my stocking. I tried one of the facial masks, and was about to wash it off when my eight-year-old son, Callum, walked in. I explained to him that it was a present from his dad and it would make me beautiful. He patiently waited by my side as I rinsed and patted my face dry. "Well, what do you think?" I asked. "Oh, Mom, it didn't work!" Callum replied.



Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch Chelsea. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat (B14) next to them and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together. One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty. Then on Boxing Day, much to Freddie and Eddie's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. "Don't ask he said, the wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present".



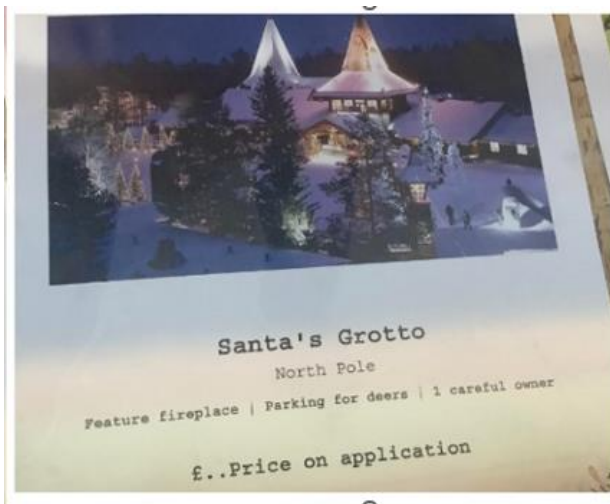
Sarah, a new young American bride calls her mother in tears. She sobs, 'Richard doesn't appreciate what I do for him 'I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding says her mother.' 'No, mother, you don't understand. I bought a frozen turkey roll and he yelled and screamed at me about the price. "Well, the nerve of that lousy cheapskate,' says her mum. 'Those turkey rolls are only a few dollars. "No, mother it wasn't the price of the turkey. It was the aeroplane ticket.' "Aeroplane ticket...." What did you need an airplane ticket for? "Well mother, when I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the package and it said: "Prepare from a frozen state," so I flew to Alaska. Cold Turkey!



Just before Christmas, I was shopping at a toy fayre in Worcester and I caught sight of a queue at the doll counter; they were waiting for the shelves to be restocked with Mattel dolls. As I looked, I realised that in the queue was a good friend of mine. Knowing John well, I was sure that he had no daughters nor did he have any nieces so I wondered why he should want to buy a doll at Christmas time' 'Hey, John,' I cried, 'I hadn't realised you collected dolls. 'I don't,' he replied laughing' 'Really,' I queried, 'then you must be buying a Christmas present then?' "No, not at all, responded John, So 'why are you standing in this particular queue?' 'It's like this, he said, 'I've never been able to resist a Barbie queue. ( He also liked meeting people!)



An enterprising Estate Agent in Woodford Green has a marvellous display in their window featuring Christmas scenes and 'spoo' Christmas properties for sale. The pictures below, although giving you the flavour of the display, do not fully do them full justice, as the display is constantly moving with a train running round as well. To any of you who live in or near Woodford Green, it's worth the whole family going to see them. The Estate Agent's display is at 475 Woodford High Road adjacent to High Elms.







## SCROOGE AT CHRISTMAS 1



An old man in England calls his son in Australia and says, "Listen, your mother and I are getting divorced. Forty-five years of misery is enough." "Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," he says. "I'm sick of her face, and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister in South Africa and tell her" and he hangs up. Now, the son is worried. He calls his sister after which she calls their father immediately. "You're not getting divorced! Don't do another thing. The two of us are flying home tomorrow to talk about this. Until then, don't call a lawyer, don't file the papers. DO YOU HEAR ME? She hangs up the phone. The old man turns to his wife and says, "Okay, they're both coming for Christmas and paying their own air fares".

## SCROOGE AT CHRISTMAS 2



A couple were Christmas shopping in Bluewater, which was packed and as the wife walked through the mall, she looked around to find that her husband was nowhere about. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do and became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was. In a quiet voice he said: "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford and I told you that I would get it for you one day?" The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop." He replied, "Well, I'm in the pub next door."



### SNOWMAN

A frozen snowman stood outside the door.  
 Wanted to come inside to run about the floor.  
 Desired to warm himself beside the fire so red.  
 He wished that he could climb upon the big white bed.  
 So he called to the North Wind 'Come and help me, pray.  
 For I'm completely frozen standing here all day.  
 Please come along and help me in my plight  
 It's so cold whilst I'm standing still all night'.  
 So the North Wind came along and blew him in the door.  
 And now there's nothing left, but a puddle on the floor.



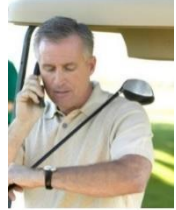
### SNOWFLAKE

One sweet snowflake looking for something to do.  
 Along came a friend and then there were two.  
 Two sweet snowflakes sipping some tea.  
 Along came a friend and then there were three.  
 Three sweet snowflakes knocking on the door.  
 Along came a friend and then there were four.  
 Four sweet snowflakes hiding in the hive.  
 Along came a friend and then there were five.  
 Five sweet snowflakes having so much fun.  
 Along came the sun and then there were none.





Two campers are walking through the woods on their Christmas holiday in America, when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing in front of them. The bear sees the campers and begins to head towards them. The first man drops his backpack, digs out a pair of joggers, and frantically begins to put them on. The second man says: "What are you doing? Joggers won't help you outrun that bear." "I don't need to outrun the bear," the first man says. "I just need to outrun you." Merry Christmas



Several men are at a golf club. A mobile phone rings and a man answers it and puts it on loud speaker. Everyone else in the room stops to eavesdrop . Man: "Hello." Woman: ". Are you at the club?" Man: "Yes." "Woman: I stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw a new one I really liked for £90,000. Can I buy it as your Christmas present. Certainly said the man. Wow she says, "I'm at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat for £2,000; is it okay if I buy it as another Christmas present from you.?" Man: "Sure". Woman: "OK that's fine", . "Fantastic . I'll see you later! I love you so much!" The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open. He turns around and asks, "Anyone know whose phone this is?"



An elderly man decides to take his wife to a very expensive restaurant together as a Christmas treat. The man addresses his wife with all sorts of endearments, calling her his darling, sweetheart and his treasure and wishes her another happy year together. When the lady goes to the bathroom, the waiter says to the man, "Wow, you have an amazing relationship with your wife, all those lovely names you call her." The man looks at the waiter and says, "To be honest, it has become a necessity. We've been married over 50 years and I actually forgot her name about three years ago."



A wife asked "We've been married 30 years and I've run out of things to ask for, so what will you give me for this years' Christmas present?". "A trip to Barbados," the husband said. "Wow, that's great, and for our 50th anniversary?" "Then, I pick you up again"



A policeman stopped a woman on New Year's Eve for exceeding the speed limit. He asked her name. She said: "I'm Mrs. Ladislav Pzpograch Zybkcicraznovskaya and I am visiting my daughter who lives in the Welsh village that is known by all the locals as Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch. The officer put away his summons book and pen, and said: " Happy New Year, but don't let me catch you speeding again."



An old man wanted to plant his winter bedding seeds in the soil but it was difficult work. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison for multiple murders. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament: "Son, I'm getting too old to plant my Christmas seeds." His son replied. Don't dig up that garden. I've told the authorities that's where the bodies are buried. At 4.00 a.m. the next morning, the local police dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. "Vincent then wrote , "Go ahead Dad and plant the seeds now".



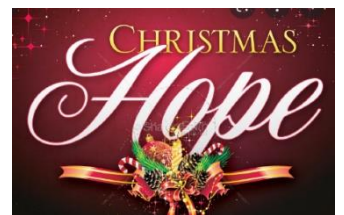
A man is driving down the road, in a Father Christmas outfit, when a police constable notices his strange attire, how fast he is going and pulls him over and says "Are you aware you were speeding?" The man replies, "Yes I am. I'm trying to escape a robbery I got involved in at a Toy Shop whilst dressed in a Father Christmas costume." "Were you the one being robbed?" The man replies, "No, I committed the robbery." "So you're telling me you were speeding AND committed a robbery dressed as Santa Claus?"

"Yes," the man says. "I have a whole load of Christmas presents in the boot" The policeman reaches in the window "Don't do that!" the man yells "You'll find the gun in my glove compartment!" The policeman asks for back up and when he arrives the Sergeant says "I am told that you have committed a robbery as Father Christmas, have stolen toys in the boot of your car, and a loaded gun in your glove compartment. However, after a thorough search we found none of these things in your car." The man replies, "I bet that liar said I was speeding too!"

## HOPE FOR A HAPPIER CHRISTMAS



Right now it seems the thing to do is for all to go on strike,  
Regardless of what effect this has on jobs and folks alike.  
I'm thinking I might also strike, to liven up my life,  
I am sick of daily housework, with all the stress and strife.  
The laundry's waiting for a wash and power bills a curse.  
We'll have to cut down bathing soon if things get any worse  
The kitchen needs a thorough clean, the Hoover's on the blink,  
And will we be able any more to afford an evening drink?  
As we get nearer Christmas time, let's hope no strikes in view  
And daily times are trouble free, so life can start anew.



Amended version of a poem originally published in The Daily Mail

## A MUM'S CHRISTMAS LAMENT



Let's have Christmas at our Mum's, I heard my daughter say. I was so upset as I wanted to go away, To relax and have some real good fun. Not stuck in the kitchen like every other Mum. I worked out what I'd need, and thought of all the work there'd be with all that lot to feed. There would be people who don't like meat and some others who are intolerant with wheat. I felt the lists amassing round my brain and knew a quiet Christmas was going down the drain. Then another voice chipped in 'Best stay the night I think. That way we can all relax and really enjoy a drink'. My mind went into overdrive as I counted up the heads. Do I have enough bedclothes or even sufficient beds? What about the fruit and veg? I'd want a lot and how. In fact with only weeks to go, I should put the sprouts on now. I went into the kitchen, I thought I'd have a drink. And there I found the washing up all piled up in the sink. My husband came and found me and didn't have much to say, but having us all together will just make our Christmas day.

Adapted from a poem by Pearl Bramble, originally in The Daily Mail.



As her husband had decided to take up jogging, his wife thought she would buy him some posh running shoes for Christmas. She was astounded by the wide selection of shoes available at the local sports shoe store and the varying prices. Not wanting to be mean she selected a jazzy red pair that cost £100.00. She examined the shoes and asked the salesman, "What is this little pocket thing here on the side for?" The salesman smirked, "Oh, that's for him to carry his mobile phone so that he can call you to come and pick him up when he's jogged too far and can't make it home." Oh she said 'have you any shoes for about £25.00"



A few weeks before Christmas, a postmaster in a small town received a letter addressed to Santa Claus. He was touched by its pathetic message. It read: "Dear Santa, do you think you could give me £50 for a bike for my mother? The postmaster was so touched that he took it along to his church that night and read it aloud. It prompted a quick collection which raised £48. The post master slipped the money into a church envelope, addressed it to the boy and posted it. The following week he noticed another letter to Santa in the same lad's handwriting. It said: "Dear Santa, thank you for sending the money for the new bike, only next time you do this sort of thing be sure not to send it through the church as the vicar took a £2 commission.



Just before Christmas, a man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbour owes me £500 which he promised to pay by the end of November and he won't pay up. What should I do?" "Do you have any proof he owes you the money?" asked the lawyer. "No," replied the man. "Okay, then send him a Christmas card asking him for the £5,000 he owed you," said the lawyer. "But it's only £500," replied the man. "Precisely. That's what he will reply and then you'll have your proof!"



A taxi passenger out doing Christmas shopping tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second, everything went quiet in the cab, and then the driver said, "Look, friend, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!" The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver - I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.



The new CEO of a company that had disastrous December trading figures and poor customer relationships comes into work just after Christmas determined to turn things around. He decides to prove his tough work ethic to his employees when he sees a guy leaning against a wall, playing on his phone. "What do you think you're doing?" the CEO demands. "Just killing time, waiting to get paid," says the man, shrugging. "How much do you make each week?" "About £400, I think," says the man. The CEO pulls out his wallet and hands the man £800. "Here's two weeks. Now get out of here!" The man takes the money and leaves. The CEO turns to his new employees. That's the way things are going to be from now on. What do you think of that?" One employee pipes up. "I think he just got the largest tip he's ever seen just for delivering a pizza."



A woman called the local newspaper just after Christmas and asked, "How much do funeral notices cost?" "It's £5.00 per word," the man on the phone said. "OK, write this: 'Cohen died.'" Man on the phone says "I'm sorry, I forgot to tell you there's a six word minimum." "Oh," she answered, "OK, print this: 'Cohen died, Christmas presents for sale'."





A man in his forties treated himself to a new convertible car at Christmas and was on the Motorway on Boxing Day for an evening drive. The top was down, the breeze was blowing and he decided to open her up. As the needle jumped up to 100 m.p.h. he suddenly saw flashing red and blue lights behind him "There's no way they can catch a convertible," he thought to himself and opened her up further. The needle hit 110, then 130. Then the reality of the situation hit him. "What in hell am I doing?" he thought and pulled over. The traffic policeman came up to him, took his licence without a word, and examined it and the car. "It's been a long day, this is the end of my shift, it's Boxing Day, and I don't want to do any paperwork. If you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before, you can go." The guy thinks for a second and says, "On Christmas Day my wife berated me for buying a new car and ran off with a police officer. I was afraid you were trying to give her back." "Have a nice weekend," said the officer.



On Christmas Eve, a wealthy businessman was going home in his car when he saw a man with 7 children along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed by the sight, he ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate. He asked him "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass." "Well, then, you can come with me to my house, and I'll feed you." "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you.", "Glad to do it. You'll really love my place, the grass is almost 2 feet high!" Merry Christmas to you and your family.



A father passing by his son's bedroom on Christmas Day was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was packed up. Then he saw 2 envelopes on the pillow that were addressed to 'Dad Part 1.' and to 'Dad Part 2.' He opened the first envelope and read the letter. Dear Dad: It is with great regret that I'm writing to you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene at Christmas time, but I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, and the fact that she is much older than I am and she's pregnant. She rents a trailer in the woods and we're growing and selling marijuana to make ends meet. Don't worry Dad. I'm 15, and I know how to take care of myself. The Dad then, with fear and trepidation, opened the second letter addressed to 'Dad Part 2' which said:

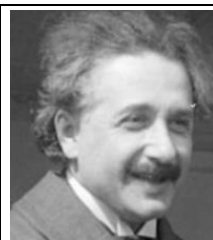
"Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a uncomplimentary school report that's been in my desk drawer since the end of last term. I love you. Merry Christmas".



A guy spots a sign in front of a house, which reads: "Talking dog for sale. Would make an ideal Christmas present". "The guy sees a dog sitting there." "Do you really talk?" he asks the dog "Yes," the dog replies. "So, what's your story?" "The dog says: "I wanted to help the UK government, so I jetted from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies." The guy is astounded. He asks the owner what he wants for the dog. The owner says: "Ten pounds." "The guy says: "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him, so cheap?" The owner replies: "He's just a big liar. He didn't do any of that stuff'.



A woman goes to her lawyer after Christmas and tells him she wants to divorce her husband. "Okay," says the lawyer. "Do you have any grounds?" "A few acres," says the woman. "But there's nothing valuable on it." "That's not what I meant. Do you have a grudge?" "Yes, that's where I park my car," says the woman. "Is your husband having a dalliance?" No, he can't even do a waltz. The lawyer is annoyed. "Why do you want a divorce?!" The woman shrugs. "We have trouble communicating".



Albert Einstein had to speak at a Christmas science conference. On the way there, he tells his driver that he looks a bit like him: The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of your speeches, and even though I don't know anything about science, I can remember enough to give the speech in your place." "That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!" So they switch clothes and the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it. But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress and asks Einstein a very difficult question, hoping he won't be able to respond. The driver looks at him and says "Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it.



A retired lady was enjoying a cruise between Christmas and New Year. While on deck she noticed a handsome, distinguished-looking gentleman. She approached a member of the crew and said: "See that gentleman, would you please seat him next to me for dinner this evening." "I'll see what I can do." the staff member said. Later on, the woman was eating dinner and sure enough, the gentleman came and sat down beside her. He turned to her and said: "I'm curious, why did you want me to sit next to you for dinner?" "I'm so glad you asked," she said. "It's because you remind me of my third husband." Surprised, he said: "Really, may I ask how many times you've been married?" "Twice," she replied with a wink.

## ANOTHER NEW YEAR

"CHEERS TO A  
NEW YEAR AND  
ANOTHER CHANCE  
FOR US TO GET  
IT RIGHT."

Another year older and deeper in debt. Another year wasted, a year to forget.  
What took all my time? Just where did it go? I really seemed busy, I really don't know.  
No time for my children. No time for my pets, as the days drifted by and left just regrets.  
Was the fault really mine or could it just be, the odds were all stacked against poor little me?  
I tried hard enough, I worked heaven knows, but after 12 months, what is there that shows?  
Another small wrinkle, another grey hair. I've fought my way up from the depths of despair.  
Are others so different, or could it be, you've had the same problems that tormented me?

## SANTA'S NEW YEAR JOB CHANGE



A week after Christmas, Santa was feeling blue. When New Year came, he had nothing much to do.  
He looked bored, staring into space. Mrs. Santa appeared and saw the look upon his face.  
'You know she gently said, her voice was now a sob.' We'll be running out of money soon, so you need to get a job'.  
One day of work is not enough to earn what we require. Santa says with furrowed brow 'how do I get us out the mire?'  
All my life I've done two things, which are wrapping and delivery. Driving through bad weather, getting wet and shivery.  
Mrs Santa with a knowing look handed him the local press. He went through all the pages to help him solve this mess.  
Under situations vacant, one was underlined in red. They say 'seek and ye shall find' was all that Santa said.  
Then she asked 'what have you set your sights upon?' I've found the perfect answer, dear. I'll get a job with Amazon'.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

What can be said in New Year rhymes, that's not been said a thousand times?  
The new years come, the new years go, we know, we dream, we dream we know.  
We rise up laughing with the light. We lay down weeping late at night.  
We hug the world until it stings. We curse it then and hate some things.  
We live, we love, we woo, we wed, We hope that we will be well fed.  
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear and that's the burden of a year.



## NEW BEGINNINGS

I'm bringing the scales out of hiding. It's something I do every year.  
I'll have to blow off the dust of course, and hope that the readings are clear.  
I'll stand on the scales on one leg, then gradually place the other one on.  
Still hoping it won't disappoint me and that all my fat parts will be gone.  
It's not easy to read wearing glasses 'cos I find it's not very clear.  
Shall I bend down and keep myself steady? Yes. I think that's a super idea.  
I'm looking and trying to focus, now the dial has come into view.  
It comes as a shock to see what it says, I'll have to decide what to do.  
I'll start the diet tomorrow, for today I'll just get things ready.  
I'll eat what I like for 24 hours and then try to take things steady.  
I now have to slim and be healthy, and eventually get fit and trim.  
I'll walk the dog with a spring in my step but you won't see me down at the gym.



## MAY THIS BE A BETTER YEAR

Another year is coming to a close. Let's forget our troubles and woes.  
For all of us last year was tough. It brought many emotions, was tearful and rough.  
Now another year is approaching fast. Let's hope the New Year's better than the last.  
May all of our dreams come true and we find peace and love in all we do.  
May we all hear the sound of joy and push away all that would destroy.  
The New Year I hope will be good to us all. Care and calm, a helping hand when we fall.  
Listen more, slow down, say. I love you.' Stop for a moment, take a breath, take in the view.  
Enjoy all that the New Year may give. We have but one life, so let's learn to live.  
It's a New Year, a brand new start. Always remember, live and love right from your heart.  
Love, hugs, and kisses too. A very happy New Year from me to you.





Some entries on this page are extracted from the Woodford and Wanstead U3A newsletter (which I also edit!) so you may remember some of these if you are a member of WWU3A

**POLITICAL ANAGRAMS FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022**  
(NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR BUT SOME PAINFUL MEMORIES OF THE GOVERNMENT)

RETURN THIS NEWS = TRUSS THE WINNER*	INFLATION AT NEW HIGH = ANNIHILATE FIGHT NOW*
TRUSS ENERGY PLAN = SPRUNG EARNESTLY*	CABINET RESHUFFLE = INCREASE THE BLUFF*
A BUDGET FOR EVERYONE? = OUTRAGE BEYOND FEVER!*	INTEREST RATES UP = NASTIER UPSETTER*
SIR KEIR STARMER = RISKIER? SMARTER?*	NATIONAL DEBT SOARS = ROTATIONAL BADNESS*
TRUSS PROMISES = SURPRISES MOST*	RISHI NOW IN CHARGE = SHOWING NICER HAIR*
CHARLES NOT AT SUMMIT = STORMS HAUNT CLIMATE	FAMOUS TORY PROLONGS = NO APOLOGY FROM TRUSS
HUNT TARGETS THE RICH = CHATTING SHEER TRUTH	CONSERVATIVE U-TURN = OVERTURN NAÏVE CUTS
GOVERNMENT DEBT RISE = BODGER REINVESTMENT	BIG FINANCIAL MESS = BENIGN FISCAL AIMS
N.I. INCREASE SCRAPPED = SPREAD SINCERE PANIC	RISE IN BENEFITS = BRIEF IS INTENSE
LEAD FAST CRISIS = FISCAL DISASTER	INFLATION INCREASES = FINANCIAL ONSET RISE
MARKETS RATTLED = TALK TRADE TERMS	PM TRUSS EMBATTLED = MUST TRAMPLE DEBTS
KWARTENG OUSTED = DO URGENT TWEAKS	JEREMY NOW IN HOT SEAT = AROSE WITH ENJOYMENT
REVISED MIGRANT DEAL = ADMIRER, EVERLASTING	PM RACE IS NOW SETTLED = COMPLETE TAWDRINESS
GENERAL STRIKE LOOMS = LOSE MARKETING ROLES	MEGHAN-HARRY LEAKS = MAKE ANGER HARSHLY

Editor: \* These are all anagrams of mine, and the top eleven were published in The Daily Mail .

**WHERE HAVE ALL THE TORIES GONE?** (Apologies to Peter Paul and Mary)

Where have all the Tories gone? Long time passing. Where have all the true blues gone? Long time ago.  
Where have all the faithful gone? Dwindled away, everyone. When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?  
Where have all their policies gone? Long time waiting. Where have all the good intensions gone? Long time ago.  
Where has all the discipline gone? Gone to pieces everyone. When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?  
Where have all the leaders gone? Long time passing. Where has all the wisdom gone? Long time ago.  
Where have all the clever MP's gone? To the backbenches everyone. When will they ever return? When will they ever return?  
Where have all the ethics gone? Long time missing. Where have all the scruples gone? Long way from home.  
Where has one moved to make a splash? To the jungle just for cash. When will Hancock ever learn? When will they ALL ever learn?

Adapted from a poem by Les Stafford, originally in The Daily Mail.



The government is still dithering over the triple-lock pension next year. Boris Johnson put it in his manifesto and then tried to withdraw it, Liz Truss pledged to keep it, but Rishi Sunak seemed to want to ditch it and then let it go ahead. It's now called 'The Hokey Cokey' payment. In out, in out, mess you all about!



The award for Prime Minister of the month in November went to Rishi Sunak. Previous winners this year were Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. There will be fierce competition in December between the Three Wise Men, The Shepherds and Santa Claus. The Shepherds will be the favourites as people will follow them like sheep!



The PM told his Deputy PM that some of the men seemed to have an unpleasant smell at Cabinet meetings and it would help if they would change their underwear occasionally. The Deputy PM promised to fix it and told the Cabinet members to change their underwear occasionally. He continued 'Each of you choose another male member and change your underwear with them'

**THE MORAL OF THE STORY:** Someone may come along and promise "Change", but don't count on things smelling any better.



What job is next for Liz Truss?  
Perhaps driving a train or a bus.  
She had unpopular views,  
So Rishi threw out her shoes,  
When she left without a great fuss.



**CHRISTMAS DINGBATS. ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE**

1 Shhh... Sir Galahad	2 gr + foot 12	3 sepottia	4 MEDITERRANEAN OFFSPRING	5 Mrage	1 _____
6 ABCDE FGHIJK MNOPQ RSTUV WXYZ	7 A4FEZ	8 FALSEFIR	9 stel	10 	2 _____
11 Warsaw citizen 	12 + OUTLET	13 smfrankell	14 PRES ENTS	15 PPPPPP WORLD	3 _____
16  Gorgeous	17 D NER	18 Athens Luz Asia McAdam NW Talus Ca Pens	19 Deco: 9 out of 10	20 LAN 	4 _____
					5 _____
					6 _____
					7 _____
					8 _____
					9 _____
					10 _____
					11 _____
					12 _____
					13 _____
					14 _____
					15 _____
					16 _____
					17 _____
					18 _____
					19 _____
					20 _____
					TOTAL: _____

**CHRISTMAS MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ 2022. ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE**

	A	B	C
1 What is the song of the 2021 Christmas song by Ed Sheeran & Elton John?	Happy Christmas	Merry Christmas	It's Christmas
2 How many windows are on an Advent calendar?	24	25	26
3 When was "All I want for Christmas is you" by Mariah Carrey released?	2014	2011	2016
4 Which band sang "Last Christmas"?	The Who	Wham	Culture Club
5 Which star is also known as the Christmas Star?	Star of Bethlehem	North Star	Sirius
6 Which US state was the first one to recognise Christmas as an official holiday?	South Carolina	Tennessee	Alabama
7 In which city were the Christmas crackers first invented?	London	Manchester	Birmingham
8 What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?	Fairy tale of New York	Mary's Boy Child	White Christmas
9 How many years was Christmas banned for in the UK (in the 17th century)?	13 years	15 years	17 years
10 How old is the average Christmas tree?	10 years	15 years	20 years
11 In which country are letters to Santa addressed to the postcode "H0H 0H0"?	Canada	USA	Australia
12 In which US State can you find a town called Christmas?	California	Texas	Florida
13 In which city can you see The Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree?	Los Angeles	New York City	San Francisco
14 Which brand is created the ad campaign featuring Santa in a red suit for the first time?	Coca-Cola	Cadbury's	The Post Office
15 Which vegetable can you find in Christmas trees in the US?	Onion	Gherkin	Pickle
16 Which was the first song broadcast in Space?	Jingle Bells	Space Oddity	Life on Mars
17 When is St. Stephen's day?	1st January	31st December	27th December
18 Add up all the songs in the "12 days of Christmas", how many would you get?	394	364	374
19 What is the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time? The Grinch	A wonderful Life	The Grinch	A Christmas Carol
20 What is the best selling Christmas album of all time?	a Under the mistletoe ( Justin Beiber ) b Elvis Christmas Album ( Elvis Presley ) c The Magic of Christmas ( Nat King Cole )		



## CHRISTMAS DINGBATS ANSWERS

1. Silent Night (silent knight)
2. Grinch (gr + inch = 1 foot /12)
3. Poinsettia (po-in-settia)
4. Season (sea- son)
5. Manger (rage = anger)
6. Noel (no letter 'l')
7. Paper hat
8. Artificial tree
9. Tinsel (t in sel)
10. Eggnog (no letter g' in the word egg)
11. North Pole (Pole is a citizen of Warsaw)
12. Advent (add + vent means outlet)
13. Frankincense (smell is a sense with the word frank inside it)
14. Open presents
15. Peace on Earth
16. Sleeping Beauty (as in the Christmas pantomime)
17. Donner (one of Santa's reindeers)
18. Mixed nuts (mixed up letters of the nuts: hazelnuts, macadamias, walnuts, and pecans)
19. Decorate
20. Lantern (lan – turn)

## CHRISTMAS MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ 2022 ANSWERS

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### Tie Breaks

How many Christmas Puddings are sold in the UK each year **25 Million**  
 How many Turkeys eaten in the UK over Xmas **10 Million**  
 How many Mince Pies eaten in the UK over Xmas **300 Million**  
 Number of Letters sent to Father Christmas each year **600,000**

# NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS BUT SOME FUN QUIZZES ANYWAY!

## CRYPTIC POP STARS OR GROUPS

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

1	Ham or beef sandwich	
2	Young men selling mice	
3	Useful for cuts	
4	Not what they seem	
5	Bodily fluids	
6	Terrestrial vertebrate animal	
7	Overweight pub game	
8	Uneducated brains	
9	Vegetable who got beaten up?	
10	Dickie at the precipice	
11	40 Watt bulb Band	
12	Big apple movement	
13	Queen of the slimming world	
14	Celsius equivalent to 37.4	
15	Trustworthy to Mr Hood	
16	Revolvers and flowers	
17	Angry William	
18	In wonderland just like that	
19	Warm bedtime drink	
20	Serves you right	
21	George Andrew Patrick	
22	Swinging in a Zoo	
23	Is Robert a tiler?	
24	Fragrant Women	
25	Crazy Kebab	
26	Spanish heavyweight in WC?	
27	Warm Galaxy?	
28	Skinny Bond character?	
29	Upset over phobias?	
30	Man Friday's boss in flames	



## CRYPTIC POP STARS OR GROUPS ANSWERS

1	Ham or beef sandwich	Meat Loaf
2	Young men selling mice	Pet Shop Boys
3	Useful for cuts	Band Aid
4	Not what they seem	The Pretenders
5	Bodily fluids	Blood sweat and tears
6	Terrestrial vertebrate animal	T Rex
7	Overweight pub game	Fats Domino
8	Uneducated brains	Simple minds
9	Vegetable who got beaten up?	Black eyed peas
10	Dickie at the precipice	Cliff Richard
11	40 Watt bulb Band	Electric Light Orchestra
12	Big apple movement	Manhattan Transfer
13	Queen of the slimming world	Thin Lizzie
14	Celsius equivalent to 37.4	3 Degrees
15	Trustworthy to Mr Hood	Marianne Faithful
16	Revolvers and flowers	Guns and Roses
17	Angry William	Billy Fury
18	In wonderland just like that	Alice Cooper
19	Warm bedtime drink	Hot Chocolate
20	Serves you right	Take That
21	George Andrew Patrick	All Saints
22	Swinging in a Zoo	The Monkees
23	Is Robert a tiler?	Bob Marley
24	Fragrant Women	Spice Girls
25	Crazy Kebab	Madonna
26	Spanish heavyweight in WC?	Elton John
27	Warm Galaxy?	Hot Chocolate
28	Skinny Bond character?	Boney M
29	Upset over phobias?	Tears For Fears
30	Man Friday's boss in flames	Smokey Robinson

**LINK THESE CLUES QUIZ**  
ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Word</b>	<b>2nd Word</b>	<b>3rd Word</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>EXAMPLE</b>				
	<i>(IN) SECT</i>	<i>(IN) JURY</i>	<i>(IN) VEST</i>	<i>IN</i>
<b>1</b>	STOP	BLUNDER	ROUTE	
<b>2</b>	WRIT	OR	ANT	
<b>3</b>	WIRE	A	MUSIC	
<b>4</b>	HELIUM	FLIGHT	PARTY	
<b>5</b>	SHORT	THROAT	BACK	
<b>6</b>	UNDER	GIRL	CLOUD	
<b>7</b>	FLOWER	GROUND	OFF	
<b>8</b>	REHEARSAL	CIRCLE	MAKER	
<b>9</b>	MINSTRELS	SHOOTING	ART	
<b>10</b>	BREAKER	SQUARE	LOCK	
<b>11</b>	WATER	CLOTH	SIDE	
<b>12</b>	CHIN	CROSS	BARREL	
<b>13</b>	WOOD	SNOW	NET	
<b>14</b>	STEP	FIGURE	TIME	
<b>15</b>	HUNTING	PIPE	FRENCH	
<b>16</b>	UNDER	SWEEPER	FIELD	
<b>17</b>	MASTER	DAY	LOAD	
<b>18</b>	TREATY	OFFERING	PIPE	
<b>19</b>	WALKER	CLEANER	MAIN	
<b>20</b>	AVERSION	NAME	DOG	



**LINK THESE CLUES QUIZ ANSWERS**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Word</b>	<b>2nd Word</b>	<b>3rd Word</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>EXAMPLE</b>				
	<i>(IN) SECT</i>	<i>(IN) JURY</i>	<i>(IN) VEST</i>	<i>IN</i>
<b>1</b>	STOP	BLUNDER	ROUTE	<b>BUS</b>
<b>2</b>	WRIT	OR	ANT	<b>TEN</b>
<b>3</b>	WIRE	A	MUSIC	<b>LIVE</b>
<b>4</b>	HELIUM	FLIGHT	PARTY	<b>BALLOON</b>
<b>5</b>	SHORT	THROAT	BACK	<b>CUT</b>
<b>6</b>	UNDER	GIRL	CLOUD	<b>COVER</b>
<b>7</b>	FLOWER	GROUND	OFF	<b>STAND</b>
<b>8</b>	REHEARSAL	CIRCLE	MAKER	<b>DRESS</b>
<b>9</b>	MINSTRELS	SHOOTING	ART	<b>GALLERY</b>
<b>10</b>	BREAKER	SQUARE	LOCK	<b>JAW</b>
<b>11</b>	WATER	CLOTH	SIDE	<b>DISH</b>
<b>12</b>	CHIN	CROSS	BARREL	<b>DOUBLE</b>
<b>13</b>	WOOD	SNOW	NET	<b>DRIFT</b>
<b>14</b>	STEP	FIGURE	TIME	<b>FATHER</b>
<b>15</b>	HUNTING	PIPE	FRENCH	<b>HORN</b>
<b>16</b>	UNDER	SWEEPER	FIELD	<b>MINE</b>
<b>17</b>	MASTER	DAY	LOAD	<b>PAY</b>
<b>18</b>	TREATY	OFFERING	PIPE	<b>PEACE</b>
<b>19</b>	WALKER	CLEANER	MAIN	<b>STREET</b>
<b>20</b>	AVERSION	NAME	DOG	<b>PET</b>