

HAVE YOURSELF A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS**Level:** B1**Age:** 12+**Time:** 45-55 minutes

Lesson focus: The focus of the class is to talk about the environmental impact of Christmas for the intermediate level, preferably adult or teenage students. Start by comparing an average annual waste production to Christmas waste production. Discuss the reasons for higher waste production during the holiday season and check the answers by reading authentic material by phs Wastekit - a leading company in waste handling solutions. Students think of different ways of reducing environmental impact at Christmas and compare them with the answers given in the text. Finish the class by asking about the awareness of this problem and if the text changed their mind about Christmas waste production.

Materials:

- worksheet with authentic material adapted from [phs Wastekit](#)

Learning objectives: to think about the waste generated over Christmas and the ways of reducing it

Structure:**1. Lead-in (6'-8')**

Divide students into pairs or small groups and allow them to guess the answers to the following questions:

- How much waste is generated annually in the EU per capita? (502 kg per capita in 2019) - by Eurostat.
- How much more rubbish is produced during Christmas time? (30-40% more than monthly average) - by Biffa (waste management company).

Share and discuss the answers. You can estimate the numbers by playing 'more or less'.

Put students in pairs again and think of main the reasons for higher waste production during the holiday season.

2. Reading for gist (3'-5')

Read the text and check the answers to the question posed in the lead-in - what are the main reasons for the increased waste production.

3. Reading for detail (3'-5')

Read the text one more time and check if statements 1-5 in exercise 2 are true, false or if the answers are not given in the text.

4. Pre-teach vocabulary (5'-7')

Students look at six pictures and read part 2 of the text individually. Give about 2'-3' to read the text and find the vocabulary that best matches the pictures.

Ask if students noticed any other difficult words and explain to them as needed.

5. Reading and discussion (6'-8')

Read part 2 *Christmas trees and decorations* as a group. Brainstorm ways in which problems mentioned in the text can be fixed and waste production reduced. Accept any appropriate answers, for example reusing artificial trees, recycling natural trees, donating Christmas decorations, etc.

6. Oral practice (6'-8')

Divide students into pairs or small groups and ask them to think of ways of reducing waste in food and beverages, and shopping and gift-giving. Discuss the answers as a group.

7. Oral practice (4'-6')

Look at additional ways of reducing waste at Christmas. Students divide the ideas into Christmas trees, food and beverages, and shopping and gifting. Check if any of the ideas were similar to the ones given by students.

8. Final discussion (3'-5')

Ask if any of your students was aware of the intensity of Christmas waste production. If not, ask if they are going to reduce their environmental impact this year? If yes, how are they planning on doing that?