

## **CHRISTMAS GRAMMAR: ARTICLES**

### **10 FUN CHRISTMAS FACTS**

By Vicki Hinze

**Fill in the gaps with ‘a /an’, ‘the’ or zero article.  
Explain the use of articles. Translate the text into  
your native language.**



Have you ever wondered about some of \_\_\_\_\_ things we see and embrace at \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas? We know that \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_ day we celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ birth of Jesus Christ. That story is familiar to us all, and embraced by \_\_\_\_\_ billions around \_\_\_\_\_ world.

But what about some of \_\_\_\_\_ other things — like \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas trees and \_\_\_\_\_ stockings and \_\_\_\_\_ Santa? And just how many people on \_\_\_\_\_ Earth celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas, anyway?

Wondering, I took \_\_\_\_\_ look and found some fun facts. Here are \_\_\_\_\_ few “did you know” kind of \_\_\_\_\_ things that intrigued me:

**No. 1.** \_\_\_\_\_ French gave \_\_\_\_\_ biggest Christmas present ever in 1886. It was \_\_\_\_\_ Statue of Liberty, and they gave it to \_\_\_\_\_ United States of America. (\_\_\_\_\_ French have one too, \_\_\_\_\_ smaller one, in Paris.)

**No. 2.** Santa Claus was \_\_\_\_\_ real Saint. He lived in Myra in the 300s. Myra is in what's now \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey. \_\_\_\_\_ German name for Saint Nicholas is Sankt Niklaus.

**No. 3.** \_\_\_\_\_ first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ tree at all. It was created out of \_\_\_\_\_ goose feathers that were dyed.

**No. 4.** Christmas has many, many names. Do you know some of them—aside from, of course, Christmas? How about? Sheng Tan Kuai Loh (China), or Hauskaa Joulua (Finland), or Joyeux Noel (France)? In Wales, it's Nadolig Llawen, and in Sweden, God Jul.

**No. 5.** That “Xmas” stems from \_\_\_\_\_ Greece. \_\_\_\_\_ Greek “X” is \_\_\_\_\_ symbol for Christ.



**No. 6.** Riga, Latvia was \_\_\_\_\_ home to \_\_\_\_\_ first decorated Christmas tree. The year was 1510. About 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year on Christmas tree farms.

**No. 7.** \_\_\_\_\_ Candy Cane is one of \_\_\_\_\_ most familiar symbols of Christmas. It dates back to \_\_\_\_\_ 1670 in Europe but didn't appear in \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. until \_\_\_\_\_ 1800s. The treat we see today, where \_\_\_\_\_ shape is Jesus' hook to shepherd his lambs and \_\_\_\_\_ color and stripes hold \_\_\_\_\_ significance for \_\_\_\_\_ purity and Christ's sacrifice, became common in \_\_\_\_\_ mid 1900s.

**No. 8.** \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Stocking got its start when \_\_\_\_\_ three unmarried girls did their laundry and hung their stockings on \_\_\_\_\_ chimney to dry. They couldn't marry, they had no dowry. But St. Nicholas, who knew of their plight, put \_\_\_\_\_ sack of gold in each stocking and in \_\_\_\_\_ morning \_\_\_\_\_ girls awoke to discover they had dowry's. They could marry.

**No. 9.** \_\_\_\_\_ estimated 1 of 3 people worldwide celebrate Christmas, including 2.1 Billion Christians. There are about 7,038,044,500 people in \_\_\_\_\_ world, so about 23,460,148 celebrate Christmas.

**No. 10.** \_\_\_\_\_ most popular Christmas Song ever is We Wish You \_\_\_\_\_ Merry Christmas. \_\_\_\_\_ song can be traced back to England, but its author and composer remains unknown.

**Merry Christmas, Everyone!**



## KEYS

Have you ever wondered about some of the things we see and embrace at \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas? We know that \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. That story is familiar to us all, and embraced by \_\_\_\_\_ billions around the world.

But what about some of the other things—like \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas trees and \_\_\_\_\_ stockings and \_\_\_\_\_ Santa? And just how many people on \_\_\_\_\_ Earth celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas, anyway?

Wondering, I took a look and found some fun facts. Here are a few “did you know” kind of \_\_\_\_\_ things that intrigued me:

No. 1. The French gave the biggest Christmas present ever in 1886. It was the Statue of Liberty, and they gave it to the United States of America. (The French have one too, a smaller one, in Paris.)

No. 2. Santa Claus was a real Saint. He lived in Myra in the 300s. Myra is in what's now \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey. The German name for Saint Nicholas is Sankt Niklaus.

No. 3. The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of \_\_\_\_\_ goose feathers that were dyed.

No. 4. Christmas has many, many names. Do you know some of them—aside from, of course, Christmas? How about? Sheng Tan Kuai Loh (China), or Hauskaa Joulua (Finland), or Joyeux Noel (France)? In Wales, it's Nadolig Llawen, and in Sweden, God Jul.

No. 5. That “Xmas” stems from \_\_\_\_\_ Greece. The Greek “X” is a symbol for Christ.

No. 6. Riga, Latvia was \_\_\_\_\_ home to the first decorated Christmas tree. The year was 1510. About 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year on Christmas tree farms.

No. 7. The Candy Cane is one of the most familiar symbols of Christmas. It dates back to \_\_\_\_\_ 1670 in Europe but didn't appear in the U.S. until the 1800s. The treat we see today, where the shape is Jesus' hook to shepherd his lambs and the color and stripes hold \_\_\_\_\_ significance for \_\_\_\_\_ purity and Christ's sacrifice, became common in the mid 1900s.

No. 8. The Christmas Stocking got its start when \_\_\_\_\_ three unmarried girls did their laundry and hung their stockings on the chimney to dry. They couldn't marry, they had no dowry. But St. Nicholas, who knew of their plight, put a sack of gold in each stocking and in the morning the girls awoke to discover they had dowry's. They could marry.

No. 9. An estimated 1 of 3 people worldwide celebrate Christmas, including 2.1 Billion Christians. There are about 7,038,044,500 people in the world, so about 23,460,148 celebrate Christmas.

No. 10. The most popular Christmas Song ever is We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The song can be traced back to England, but its author and composer remains unknown.