

Full of Holiday Cheer: Using Prepositions in a Sentence

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Use Task A as a warm up activity. Then highlight the grammar of the questions. Note how prepositional phrases either act as adjectives (describing or identifying a noun) or adverbs (explaining when, where, how or why something is done).

1. What holidays are **celebrated** in December? [like an adverb]
2. Do you know any games or foods **associated** with December holidays? [like an adverb]
3. Is giving holiday gifts a **tradition** in your family? [like an adjective]

STEP 2 – Students will complete Task B alone or in pairs. Correct their answers as a class.

Answers:

1. *Omisoka*, the last **day** of December, is a **holiday** in Japan.
2. *Otoshidama* is the Japanese tradition of giving money to children on New Year's Day.
tradition of giving
giving money to children
giving money on New Year's Day
3. Mistletoe is a plant that is **hung** over a doorway in many American homes.
4. It's a tradition for people to kiss under a piece of mistletoe.
a tradition for people
kiss under a piece
a piece of mistletoe
5. Kwanzaa was first **celebrated** in 1966.
6. Candles are **used** in different holidays.
7. Candles can **stand** on a table.
8. Electric candles might **shine** in windows.
9. When you drive through a typical neighborhood in the U.S., don't be surprised by all the decorations on people's houses.
drive through a typical neighborhood
neighborhood in the U.S.
surprised by all the decorations
decorations on people's houses
10. A Christmas tree is **decorated** with colorful ornaments and lights.
11. It's a tradition to **place presents** under the Christmas tree.
12. Some people **exchange presents** on New Year's Eve.
13. Hanukkah is **celebrated** in November or December.
14. **People** in the U.K. and Ireland **celebrate Boxing Day** on December 26.
15. **Leftovers** from Christmas Day **can be eaten** on Boxing Day.

STEP 3 – In Tasks C and D, students will write a short paragraph based on partner interviews. Final drafts can be submitted to you. Optional: Partners can read each other's work, underlining prepositional phrases and circling the words being modified.

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Task A. Did you know that December is full of holidays? Answer the questions to the best of your ability.

1. What holidays are celebrated in December? Can you name at least three?
2. Do you know any games or foods associated with December holidays?
3. Is giving holiday gifts a tradition in your family?

Task B. Read the sentences. Underline each prepositional phrase. Circle the word it modifies.

1. *Omisoka*, the last day of December, is a holiday in Japan.
2. *Otoshidama* is the Japanese tradition of giving money to children on New Year's Day.
3. Mistletoe is a plant that is hung over a doorway in many American homes.
4. It's a tradition for people to kiss under a piece of mistletoe.
5. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.
6. Candles are used in different holidays.
7. Candles can stand on a table.
8. Electric candles might shine in windows.
9. When you drive through a typical neighborhood in the U.S., don't be surprised by all the decorations on people's houses.
10. A Christmas tree is decorated with colorful ornaments and lights.
11. It's a tradition to place presents under the Christmas tree.
12. Some people exchange presents on New Year's Eve.
13. Hanukkah is celebrated in November or December.
14. People in the U.K. and Ireland celebrate Boxing Day on December 26.
15. Leftovers from Christmas Day can be eaten on Boxing Day.

Task C. Talk to a partner. Take notes.

1. Do you celebrate any holidays in December? Which ones? When?
2. What holiday traditions do you have?
3. What do you like about the holidays?

Task D. Use your notes to write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) about the holiday(s) your partner celebrates in December.
