

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 4** – 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-4.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake-4.html>

Christmas cake is a centuries-old tradition. The majority of people who enjoy this festive treat may not know the science behind slicing it. A professor of mathematics and geometry tested the best way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on cutting it while leaving the insides as moist as possible. He said it is best to cut across the middle into two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining halves together.

Christmas cake is an English tradition. It is full of raisins, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in brandy. It is common to cover the fruitcake base in a layer of marzipan, then coat the top and sides in a one-centimetre layer of icing. People decorate the top of the cake with Christmas symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes vary around the world. 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_cake)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Christmas cake is a centuries- | a. behind slicing it    |
| 2. people who enjoy this festive  | b. into two semicircles |
| 3. know the science               | c. treat                |
| 4. mathematics and                | d. halves together      |
| 5. cut a Christmas cake into      | e. geometry             |
| 6. as moist as                    | f. slices               |
| 7. cut across the middle          | g. old tradition        |
| 8. push the remaining             | h. possible             |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. orange rind and               | a. cakes             |
| 2. The fruit is often soaked     | b. layer of marzipan |
| 3. cover the fruitcake base in a | c. of the cake       |
| 4. coat the top and              | d. cream             |
| 5. People decorate the top       | e. in brandy         |
| 6. Christmas cakes vary          | f. sides             |
| 7. simple sponge                 | g. around the world  |
| 8. whipped                       | h. other dried fruit |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake-4.html>

Christmas cake (1) \_\_\_\_\_ -old tradition. The majority of people who enjoy (2) \_\_\_\_\_ may not know the science behind slicing it. A professor of mathematics (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the best way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on cutting it while leaving the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as possible. He said it is best to cut (5) \_\_\_\_\_ into two semicircles, then cut slices and push the (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Christmas cake is an English tradition. It is full of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and other dried fruit. The fruit (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in brandy. It is common to cover the fruitcake base in a layer of marzipan, then coat the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in a one-centimetre layer of icing. People (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the cake with Christmas symbols like fir trees or snowmen and women. Christmas cakes (11) \_\_\_\_\_ world. In Japan, they (12) \_\_\_\_\_ cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake-4.html>

Christmas cake is a centuries-old tradition. The majority of people who enjoy this festive treat may not know the science behind slicing it. A professor of mathematics and geometry tested the best way to cut a Christmas cake into slices. He focused on cutting it while leaving the inside as moist as possible. He said it is best to cut across the middle into two semicircles, then cut slices and push the remaining halves together. Christmas cake is an English tradition. It is full of raisins, orange rind and other dried fruit. The fruit is often soaked in brandy. It is common to cover the fruit cake base in a layer of marzipan, then coat the top and sides in a one-centimetre layer of icing. People decorate the top of the cake with Christmas symbols like fir trees, snowmen and women. Christmas cakes vary around the world. In Japan, they are simple sponge cakes with whipped cream and strawberries.

# CHRISTMAS CAKE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201225-christmas-cake-4.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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Scientist finds the 'right' way to cut Christmas cake – 25th December, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

