Theme sheet · 8 December 2026

Speakers' Corner 2.0 · The Shakespeare · 19:30 theme round

Christmas at home, in your youth, in other countries — and New Year *Weihnachten zu Hause, früher, anderswo — und Silvester*

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, carp or turkey, candles or fairy lights? Compare how you celebrate today with how it was when you were a child — and how other countries do it. You don't have to celebrate Christmas to join in: winter festivals and New Year count too. *Wie feierst du heute, wie war es als Kind, wie machen es andere Länder? Wer kein Weihnachten feiert, erzählt von anderen Winterfesten oder von Silvester.*

Useful words	Auf Deutsch
Christmas Eve / Christmas Day / Boxing Day	*Heiligabend / 1. Weihnachtstag / 2. Weihnachtstag*
Advent calendar / Advent wreath	*Adventskalender / Adventskranz*
Christmas tree / to decorate / fairy lights	*Weihnachtsbaum / schmücken / Lichterkette*
presents / to wrap / a stocking	*Geschenke / einpacken / ein Strumpf*
Father Christmas / Santa Claus / the Christ Child	*Weihnachtsmann / Christkind*
Christmas market / mulled wine / gingerbread	*Weihnachtsmarkt / Glühwein / Lebkuchen*
Christmas dinner / a roast / Christmas pudding	*Weihnachtsessen / ein Braten / Plumpudding*
crackers / paper crowns / the King's speech	*Knallbonbons / Papierkronen / die Weihnachtsansprache des Königs*
New Year's Eve / fireworks / to count down	*Silvester / Feuerwerk / herunterzählen*
a New Year's resolution / to keep / to break	*ein guter Vorsatz / einhalten / brechen*

Questions for the table:

- What did Christmas look like when you were a child?
- Which family tradition would you never give up — and which one could go?
- Have you ever spent Christmas or New Year abroad? What was different?
- Crackers, the King's speech, Christmas pudding, Boxing Day — which British tradition would you like to try?
- How do you spend New Year's Eve — and do you make resolutions?

Sentences you can start with:

- “When I was a child, on Christmas Eve we always …”
- “In our family, the most important thing is …”
- “The strangest Christmas I ever had was …”
- “In Germany we … — in Britain they …”
- “My New Year's resolution is … — and I'll keep it until …”

Your notes — three words you want to use tonight, one thing you want to say:

Next time: Tuesday, 12 January 2027 — AI: helper, threat — or just hype? Ideas for later evenings welcome at the bar or via info@the-shakespeare.pub.