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Christmas chat 聊聊圣诞

Christmas music

Rob: Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way. Hello I am Rob, welcome to the Christmas special from BBC Learning English.

Helen: Hold on Rob. It's only November. Aren't you getting ahead of yourself?
这才几月份儿? 圣诞节还没到呢?

Rob: Well, maybe you are not feeling festive yet, but look around the streets of London. It's looking Christmassy already.

Helen: 这倒也是。现在伦敦已经充满了圣诞节的气氛，商店里的橱窗都挂上了闪烁的小灯串，还有雪花装饰。

Rob: It seems that Christmas is starting earlier and earlier every year.

Helen: 商场可是早早的就把圣诞装饰摆出来了，可是对人们来说什么时候比较适合准备圣诞呢?

Insert

Not until, preferably first of December, but not till after bonfire night.

Probably around Halloween I'd say.

I think beginning of December.

Usually about the 2nd or 3rd of December.

I was thinking about Christmas in June, that early? Yeah, I love Christmas.

Rob: Do you know when Bonfire night and Halloween is?

Helen: Bonfire night, 这是英国的烟花节，在 11 月 5 号。

Rob: And Halloween that's on the 31st of October. That's two months before Christmas.

Helen: 很多人是在 12 月初开始准备过圣诞节的。

Rob: We did have one young man who loved Christmas SO much, he started thinking about Christmas back in June.

Helen: June 六月份, 提前 6 个月准备, 真的是很早。不过真的有商店在 6 月份就开设了圣诞专柜。

Rob: I have to say that's WAY too early for me. What about you? When do you start Christmas plan?

Helen: Not till the last minute to be honest. 我是属于那种临时抱佛脚的人, 肯定等到最后一刻再准备。And you?

Rob: Usually about the start of December, then I start to feel a bit festive. We also asked people what's their best Christmas.

Helen: 人们记忆中最美好的圣诞节是怎样的呢? 你知道说一个人 **alive and kicking** 是什么意思吗?

Insert

My best Christmas was probably when I was a child, when I really believed in father Christmas, because he's still alive and still kicking.

Helen: 这位女士说她记忆中最美好的圣诞节是她小的时候, 那时她还相信圣诞老人的存在。**Alive** 活着, **kicking** 踢腿, 这两个词加在一起就是一个固定短语, 形容谁还活着, 而且精神饱满。

Insert

I have been very lucky, I have never had a bad Christmas, they were all with family.

I just love every Christmas where I am with my family and friends really. So every Christmas is different and just as good.

Rob: A good Christmas is really about being with your family and friends.

Helen: 是的, 圣诞节是家庭团聚的时刻。几乎所有人都说最美好的圣诞时光是和家人一起度过的。

Insert

My best Christmas I would say was, when I was a child I suppose. When you believe in the Christmas spirit. It's much more fun, and the family makes an effort.

Rob: Well, I believed in Santa when I was little too, and I hope my children will appreciate all the presents from Santa this year.

Helen: 那么人们记忆中有没有最差的圣诞节呢?

Insert

My worst Christmas was probably when my house was flooded. So we had to make do with that Christmas, but we still made it fun.

And my worst Christmas is when I had pneumonia, I was very ill, so that was my worst Christmas.

When you lose a member of the family, it's very hard to celebrate, however we tried to keep the spirit up in their memory.

The worst Christmas was probably when I had to go to work, and I was in Johannesburg for Christmas.

Rob: It seems that even when things go wrong during the festival period, people will try to keep up with the holiday spirit.

Helen: 我们听到了有人在圣诞节期间家被水淹了, her house was flooded. 还有人生病卧床不起, 得了肺炎 pneumonia. Poor thing!

Rob: Another man lost a member of his family and that made it very hard for them to celebrate Christmas.

Helen: 如果你家人去世了, 这是最令人伤感的事情。不过这位先生虽然经历了这样的打击, 他们全家也尽力庆祝圣诞节, 怀念他们的亲人。

Rob: So Helen, what's your most memorable Christmas then?

Helen: 我记忆中最突出的一个圣诞节是 16 岁那年, 我一个人在家。早中晚餐都是水果蛋糕, 然后看了 3 天 3 夜的电视, 也没有人来管我。I had complete freedom.

Rob: Sounds good. Would you repeat it again?

Helen: Probably never again. This year I shall spend it with my family.

Rob: Well, that sounds good, but there's plenty to organise, so don't leave it too late this year.

Helen: I'll try to be organised. 谢谢收听, 我们下次节目再见。

Rob: Bye.

Helen: Bye.