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Level 1

Christmas becoming less religious in U.S.

20th December, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-1.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-1.html>

A report says Christmas in the USA is now less religious. Nine out of ten Americans celebrate Christmas, but only half think it is religious. Over two thousand people answered questions about Christmas. Over 30 per cent said it was a cultural holiday. The report said more younger people think Christmas is not a religious holiday. They're less likely to go to church. They are also less likely to believe in the story of the birth of Jesus.

People are also changing what they say to each other. More people are saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". This is because people want to include all holidays in their holiday wishes. Almost 80 per cent of Americans will watch a Christmas movie. Only 59 per cent will go to church. People spend an average of \$914 on Christmas. People most look forward to spending time with their family at Christmas.

Sources: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/poll-christmas-is-a-commercial-holiday-not-a-sacred-holy-day-for-many/2013/12/17/e07cd7fa-672e-11e3-997b-9213b17dac97_story.html
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/18/christmas-non-religious_n_4453828.html

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Christmas in the USA is now less | a. Christmas |
| 2. Nine out of | b. was a cultural holiday |
| 3. celebrate | c. in the story |
| 4. Over two thousand people | d. religious |
| 5. Over 30 per cent said it | e. of Jesus |
| 6. They're less likely to | f. answered questions |
| 7. less likely to believe | g. go to church |
| 8. the birth | h. ten Americans |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. People are also changing what | a. a Christmas movie |
| 2. saying "Happy Holidays" instead | b. of \$914 on Christmas |
| 3. people want to | c. of "Merry Christmas" |
| 4. holiday | d. time with their family |
| 5. watch | e. they say to each other |
| 6. Only 59 per cent | f. wishes |
| 7. People spend an average | g. include all holidays |
| 8. People most look forward to spending | h. will go to church |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-1.html>

A report says Christmas in the USA is (1) _____. Nine (2) _____ Americans celebrate Christmas, but only half think (3) _____. Over two thousand people answered questions about Christmas. Over 30 per cent said it was (4) _____. The report said more (5) _____ Christmas is not a religious holiday. They're less likely to go to church. They are also less likely to believe in the (6) _____ of Jesus.

People are also changing what they (7) _____. More people are saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". This is because people (8) _____ all holidays in their (9) _____. Almost 80 per cent of Americans (10) _____ Christmas movie. Only 59 per cent will go to church. People (11) _____ of \$914 on Christmas. People most look forward to spending time with (12) _____ Christmas.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1312/131220-happy-holidays-1.html>

A report says Christmas in the USA is now less religious. Nine out of ten Americans celebrate Christmas, but only half think it is religious. Over two thousand people answered questions about Christmas. Over 30 percentsaid it was a cultural holiday. The report said more younger people think Christmas is not a religious holiday. They're less likely to go to church. They are also less likely to believe in the story of the birth of Jesus. People are also changing what they say to each other. More people are saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". This is because people want to include all holidays in their holiday wishes. Almost 80 percent of Americans will watch a Christmas movie. Only 59 percent will go to church. People spend an average of \$914 on Christmas. People most look forward to spending time with their family at Christmas.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
