



Expand Your Vocabulary with Christmas Carols

This time of the year is perfect for acknowledging some “off the beaten path” kinds of words because there are so many of them in songs we hear playing—and even find ourselves singing along with—throughout the holiday season.

We’ve made a song book for you to print, and we’ve also included some spaces where you can acknowledge, together, some less-than-familiar words. Have a phone (or go *old school* and use an actual dictionary) handy so you can look up the meanings of one or two words for each song. Then, challenge one another to use some of these words throughout the holiday season. We suggest only doing one song a day.

You can play the songs on your phone, or you can even find a YouTube video to play while the kids use the lyric sheets to sing along. When the song ends, ask if there are some words that your kids didn’t recognize. Invite them to circle those words, look them up together, and talk about their meanings. Try to add some context that will make your discussion and the word meanings memorable.

You can even cut out some ornament-shaped pieces of colorful construction paper, and have the kids write one word on each of them. This will help everyone remember the new vocabulary words. You should have a nice collection of holiday words when you’ve sung each of the songs!

Remember that this should NOT feel like school. Make hot chocolate and enjoy some cookies to make it a mini holiday celebration. You could even use red or green highlighters to highlight the words. Even a holiday pencil can be enough to make this time special. Your enthusiasm can make all the difference! 😊

Some suggestions for words to investigate:

1. **We Wish You a Merry Christmas-** tidings, kin
2. **White Christmas-** glisten, merry
3. **Mr. Grinch-** heel, vile, foul, sots, appalling, deplorable, nauseate, nauseous, arsenic (You can identify and note the nonsense/made-up words, too, if you’d like.)
4. **Winter Wonderland-** meadow, Parson, conspire
5. **Deck the Halls-** boughs, gay, apparel, ancient, Yuletide, carol
6. **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas-** merry, gay, yore, fates, bough

We Wish You a Merry Christmas



We wish you a merry Christmas.

We wish you a merry Christmas
and a happy new year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.

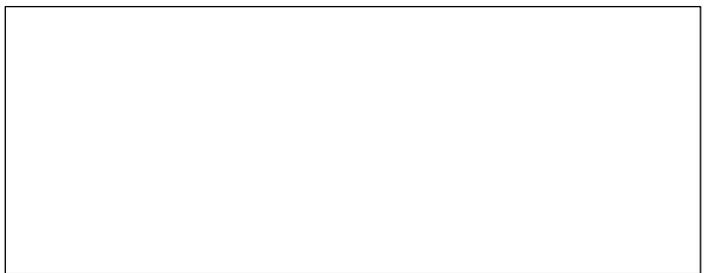
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy new year.

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the treetops glisten,
And children listen,
To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
With every Christmas card I write.
May your days be merry and bright,
And may all your Christmases be white.





Mr. Grinch



You're a mean one Mr. Grinch.

You really are a heel.

You're as cuddly as a cactus.

You're as charming as an eel.

Mr. Grinch, you're a bad banana with a greasy black peel.

You're a monster, Mr. Grinch.

Your heart's an empty hole.

Your brain is full of spiders.

You've got garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch.

I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!

You're a vile one Mr. Grinch.

You got termites in your smile.

You have all the tender sweetness,

Of a seasick crocodile, Mr. Grinch.

Given a choice between the two of you,

I'd take the seasick crocodile.

You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch.

You're a nasty-wasty skunk.

Your heart is full of unwashed socks.

Your soul is full of gunk, Mr. Grinch.

The three words that best describe you are as follows, and I quote- Stink, stank, stunk!



You're a rotter, Mr. Grinch.

You're the king of sinful sots.

Your heart's a dead tomato splotched with moldy purple spots, Mr. Grinch.

Your soul is an appalling dump heap overflowing with the most disgraceful assortment of deplorable rubbish imaginable, mangled up in tangled up knots!

You nauseate me, Mr. Grinch,
With a nauseous super "naus"!

You're a crooked jerky jockey, and you drive a crooked hoss, Mr. Grinch.

You're a three decker sauerkraut and toadstool sandwich with arsenic sauce!

Words I can learn:

Winter Wonderland



Sleigh bells ring, are you listenin'?
In the lane, snow is glistenin'.
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight,
Walking in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird.
Here to stay is a new bird.
He sings a love song as we go along,
Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman.
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown.
He'll say, "Are you married?" We'll say, "No man,"
But you can do the job when you're in town.

Later on we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire,
To face unafraid, the plans that we've made,
Walking in the winter wonderland.

Words I can learn:

Deck the Halls



Deck the halls with boughs of holly.

Fa la la la la, la la la la!

'Tis the season to be jolly.

Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Don we now our gay apparel.

Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol.

Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Words I can learn:

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas



Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Let your heart be light.

From now on your troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Make the Yuletide gay.

From now on your troubles will be miles away.

Here we are as in olden days.

Happy golden days of yore.

Faithful friends who are dear to us,

Gather near to us once more.

Through the years we all will be together,

If the fates allow.

Hang a shining star upon the highest bough.

So have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

Words I can learn:
