

UNIT 2

- 2a** What do you know about Christmas? Discuss in groups and create a mind map.



- 2b** Read the passage about Christmas and answer the questions.

1. What are the common things that people think of for Christmas?
2. Who wrote *A Christmas Carol*?
3. What is the true meaning of Christmas?

A Christmas Carol

Many would agree that when we think of Christmas, we probably think of gifts, Christmas trees and Santa Claus. But behind all these things lies the true meaning of Christmas: the importance of sharing and giving love and joy to people around us. The story in *A Christmas Carol* is perhaps the best example of this.

A Christmas Carol is a famous short novel written by Charles Dickens. It is about an old man named Scrooge who never laughs or smiles. He is mean and only thinks about himself. He doesn't treat others nicely. He just cares about whether he can make more money and he hates Christmas. One Christmas Eve, Scrooge sees the ghost of Jacob Marley, his dead business partner. Marley used to be just like Scrooge, so he was punished after he died. He warns Scrooge to change his ways if he doesn't want to end up like him. He also tells Scrooge to expect three spirits to visit him.

That night, three ghosts visit Scrooge. First, the Ghost of Christmas Past takes him back to his childhood and reminds Scrooge of his happier days as a child. Then the second spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Present, takes him to see how others are spending Christmas this year. Everyone is happy, even poor people. The last one, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, takes him to the future. Scrooge sees that he is dead, but nobody cares. He is so scared that he wakes up in his bed and finds out it is only the next morning — Christmas Day!



He decides to change his life and promises to be a better person. He happily celebrates Christmas with his relatives. He also gives gifts to people in need. He now treats everyone with kindness and warmth, spreading love and joy everywhere he goes. And that is the true spirit of Christmas!

INFERRING

This means you have to "read between the lines" to get the meanings that are not clearly stated in a text.

2c Read the passage again and complete the chart.

What does Scrooge see when he's with ...	
the Ghost of Christmas Past?	
the Ghost of Christmas Present?	
the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?	

2d Answer the questions. Some answers need to be inferred.

1. Why does Scrooge hate Christmas?
2. Does Scrooge have a lot of friends? Why or why not?
3. Why was Jacob Marley punished after he died?
4. Does Jacob Marley want to help Scrooge? How do you know?
5. How does Scrooge feel when he wakes up on Christmas Day?
6. What does Scrooge do after seeing the three spirits?

2e What do you think the three ghosts say to Scrooge when they visit him? In groups of four, make a conversation between the three ghosts and Scrooge. Role-play the conversation in front of the class.

3a Your English-speaking pen pal wants to know about your favorite Chinese festival. Make some notes about the festival.

What is the name of the festival?	
When is it?	
What do people eat?	
What do people do?	
Why do you like it so much?	

2a Discuss the questions in your groups.

Are you allowed to make your own decisions at home? What kinds of decisions?

2b First, look at the title of the passage. Answer “yes” or “no”. Find out how many in your group agree with you. Then read the passage. Does your answer change?

LEARNING ACTIVELY

When you learn any new language, actively use it in new sentences of your own.

Should I Be Allowed to Make My Own Decisions?

Many teenagers have hobbies. But sometimes these can get in the way of their schoolwork, and parents might worry about their success at school. Teenagers often think they should be allowed to practice their hobbies as much as they want. Do you agree?



Liu Yu, a fifteen-year-old boy from Shandong, is a running star. He is on his school team and has always wanted to be a professional runner when he grows up. However, his parents won't allow him to train so much. “Of course we want to see him achieve his dreams,” says Mr. Liu. “And we know how much he loves running. My wife and I have supported every one of his races. We have nothing against running! But we think our

son needs to think about other possible jobs. He's getting older now, so he needs to think about what will happen if he doesn't end up as a professional runner.”

Liu Yu doesn't really agree. “Well, I think I should be allowed to decide for myself,” he says. “My parents have always taught me how important it is to work hard at school and enter university. I understand this, but I'm serious about running. It's the only thing I've ever wanted to do.”

His parents believe that Liu Yu should study hard in the evenings so they don't allow him to practice running at night. “Maybe he thinks it's too strict or unfair,” says Mrs. Liu. “But we think we're doing the right thing. He needs to spend more time on his homework because it is difficult to become a professional sports star.”

But Liu Yu still disagrees. “I know my parents care about me. They always talk about what will happen if I don't succeed. But I will! I'm a quick runner! I think I should be allowed to make this choice myself. Only then will I have a chance to achieve my dream.”

2c Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. What is Liu Yu's hobby?
2. What does Liu Yu want to be when he grows up?
3. Why do Liu Yu's parents not allow Liu Yu to practice his hobby at night?
4. Do you think Liu Yu should be allowed to practice his hobby as much as he wants? Why or why not?

2d Look in the passage for the words in bold. Then use them to complete sentences of your own.

1. My parents **worry about** _____.
2. My parents have always taught me **how important it is to** _____.
3. I am **serious about** _____.
4. I think it is **unfair** _____.
5. I have **always wanted to be** _____.
6. My parents **have nothing against** _____.
7. I need to think about **what will happen if** _____.
8. I need to **spend more time on** _____.

2e Discuss the questions with a partner. Use the information in the passage to support your opinion.

What is your dream job? Do your parents support your dream?

3a With a partner, discuss some rules at home that you agree or disagree with. Make some notes in the chart.

Rule	Why you agree or disagree with it	How you think the rule should be changed
can't play computer games can't watch TV		

- 2a** What do you know about customs in foreign countries? What do you think is the biggest challenge when visiting a foreign country?

e.g. My cousin went to America, and she said that learning basic table manners was her biggest challenge. She never knew what she was supposed to do at the dinner table.

- 2b** Read the letter and answer the questions.

1. Why is Lin Yue in France?
2. Does she enjoy staying with her host family? How do you know?
3. How does she feel about making mistakes when she speaks French?
4. What is the biggest challenge she is facing?

REVIEWING

Taking notes or summarizing the main ideas can help you move language from your short-term to long-term memory.

Dear Laura,

Thanks for your message. Yes, I'm having a great time on my student exchange program in France. I was a bit nervous before I arrived here, but there was no reason to be. My host family is really nice. They go out of their way to make me feel at home. The grandmother knows that I miss Chinese food a lot. So she actually learned how to make Chinese food! She also has a teenage granddaughter about my age who is really kind. She always talks to me in French to help me practice. You wouldn't believe how quickly my French has improved because of that. I'm very comfortable speaking French now. Although I still make lots of mistakes, it doesn't worry me as it used to.

My biggest challenge is learning how to behave at the dinner table. As you can imagine, things are very different from the way they are at home. For example, you're not supposed to put your bread on your plate. You're supposed to put it on the table! I thought that was pretty strange at first, but now I'm used to it. Another example is that you're not supposed to eat anything with your hands except bread, not even fruit. You have to cut it up and eat it with a fork. Another thing is that it is impolite to say you're full. If you don't want any more food, you should just say, "That was delicious." Also, you're not supposed to put your elbows on the table. I have to say that I find it difficult to remember everything, but I'm gradually getting used to it. I don't find French customs so strange anymore.

I'll write again soon and tell you more about my life in France. Hope you're having a good school year.

Yours,
Lin Yue



2c Read the sentences and replace the underlined words with the phrases in the box.

1. Making mistakes in French used to make Lin Yue nervous.
2. It was quite hard for her to feel good about speaking French.
3. The host family tried very hard to help Lin Yue.
4. Lin Yue has slowly learned how to be like her French friends.

went out of their way
be comfortable (doing)
gradually gotten used to being
(something) worry (someone)

2d Review the passage and make notes about French customs in the chart.

Dos	Don'ts
You're expected to put your bread on the table.	You're not supposed to put your bread on your plate.

2e Compare the table manners in France and China in your group. How are they the same or different? Make a list.

e.g. In France, people put their bread on the table. But in China, we always put our food on a plate or in a bowl. We never put food on the table.

3a Your pen pal is coming to China on an exchange program. He/She is asking you about Chinese customs and what he/she is supposed to do or not. Make notes in the chart.

Table manners	It's polite/impolite to ...
House rules	You're supposed/not supposed to ...
Going out with people	You should ...