

I: Woman interviewing

A: Man being interviewed; American

Christmas in New York

I: Guess where I'm going for Christmas this year?

A: Um, I don't know.

I: I'm going to New York!

A: Hey. New York, New York, the city?

I: Yeah. I'm really excited. I've never been to the States before and I was wondering, how do they celebrate Christmas? I'm only used to English Christmas.

A: Christmas is a big thing in America. And if you're going to New York, you'll find that there's lots of celebrations going on. Great big trees in Rockefeller Center, shows going on on Broadway.

I: Special Christmas shows?

A: Special Christmas shows, yes.

I: That sounds fun. What about Christmas dinner, 'cause I'm used to eating turkey on Christmas Day. Will I be able to do that in New York?

A: You can eat whatever you like. There's... There's Englishmen, there's Italians, there's all kinds of Christmases in America, so you can find a British Christmas if that's what you want. You can eat goose if you want to.

I: If I want to have an American Christmas, to do something different, what would I be eating then?

A: Well, the trouble with American Christmas is that we have so many different cultures. But, **my** particular American Christmas used to be turkey. We would have turkey on Christmas Day. That would be the time when we'd open the presents also.

I: It's the same tradition then, turkey for Christmas.

A: Absolutely. With stuffing and cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, if you have it.

I: Oh! Pumpkin pie?

A: Pumpkin pie's part of it.

I: We don't have that. We have Christmas pudding.

A: No, we don't have Christmas pudding.

I: Oh, don't you?

A: No, we don't. But we have candy canes on the tree. Do you have that?

I: Well, I think it's an American tradition which we've started having in England.

A: How about socks? Do you have socks?

I: Oh yes. Christmas stockings we call them.

A: Christmas socks we call them, yes. Filled with all kinds of good stuff.

I: But only for children.

A: Well, yes and no. You could have a Christmas sock if you wanted one, I suppose, but it's mostly for children, yeah.

I: We're actually going to be staying in New York right up until New Year's Eve.

A: [laughs.]

I: And I was wondering, where should we go?

A: Oh. Times Square. That is the place to be on New Year's Eve. That's where they have that great big ball. It's a ball that's up on a rack, and you wait until just the crack of 12 o'clock in the evening, you know, New Year's Eve, and the ball comes down, down, down, down and when it finally reaches the bottom, you get bunches of fireworks and that's the moment of New Year's Eve.

I: Fireworks come after the ball?

A: They come out all over the city at that point, but particularly over Times Square, yeah. And that is New Year's Eve.

I: Absolutely amazing. It'll be fantastic. What else should we do whilst we're in New York?

A: Well, I think you should do the classic things. You should go to the Statue of Liberty. I think you should go to the top of the Empire State Building. I think you might go to the art museum, the one that looks like it's been made out of

aluminum foil. It's called the Guggenheim Museum and they have a wonderful collection of things there.

I: What did you say it looked as if it's been made out of?

A: It looks like it's made of tin foil because it's all aluminum and it has these wonderful curves.

I: Aluminium. Right.

A: Yeah.

I: What about Central Park? Is that shut in winter?

A: No, they don't. It's far too big to shut and it's right in the middle of the city, so no, that's open and you could go there to the ice rink and go skating if you liked.

I: What else can you do in Central Park? I mean, in the summer people go jogging and have picnics.

A: You could go to restaurants. You could just take a walk around the reservoir. You could have a picnic, I suppose, although it may be a little bit cold, but there's lots of things that you could do there. You could play hockey even if you want to. There's an ice rink for that.

I: Well, that sounds great. One thing I've been wondering about, though. Are people friendly in New York? I mean, can I ask the way if I get lost or anything?

A: Absolutely. People want to be friendly in New York. New York is a city filled with people from other places and they all help one another when they get there.