

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

Pippa Middleton, the sister of the Duchess of Cambridge, has published her guide to the festive season. Pippa's 'Top 10 tips for a Perfect Family Christmas' has been published on the *Party Times* online magazine that she edits for her family's mail-order business. It says the most important thing to remember for "stress-free" festive period is "first impressions". The magazine suggests: "Welcome family and neighbours by lighting pathways with tea light garden lanterns, LED light sticks and fairy lights wrapped round tree trunks or branches. Other tips include baking festive biscuits for children to hand out to their classmates as end-of-term gifts, creating a "fairytale gingerbread house", and sprinkling "edible glitter" on Christmas popcorn. The magazine says: 'Have guests met by a beautiful red berry wreath and windows decorated with silver snowflake cut-outs, reindeers and Christmas trees using snow spray.' There is also advice on decorating the tree. It is suggested bright, unusual baubles are used along with candy candles and edible chocolate decorations. Patterned tablecloths are suggested as a quick and easy dressing for the dining table but fairy lights take centre stage. Fairy lights play an essential part and can be draped from beams, twisted round staircases and hung around door frames for a winter sparkle. The magazine adds: Rustic rattan reindeers nestled in a corner and wrapped with fairy lights look stunning and magical."

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

1. Create good first impressions when guests arrive with fairy lights and candles
2. Decorate the tree with colourful decorations and interesting baubles
3. Bake cookies and biscuits cut into festive shapes
4. Create a Scandinavian gingerbread house
5. Use Christmas theme dressings and centrepieces for the dining table
6. Enjoy delicious hot drinks such as mulled wine or hot chocolate
7. Fill your house with fairy lights of all colours to add a sparkle
8. Shop online for presents for a less stressful experience
9. Wrap and tag all your gifts in advance
10. Organise all your Christmas jobs so none are left until the last minute

**Category: Pippa Middleton / Christmas / Party Tips**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## EXERCISES

**1. Pippa Middleton:** Think of three things you know about Pippa Middleton? Go round the room swapping details with others.

**2. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**3. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**4. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**5. The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**6. Xmas tips:** In pairs think of your top five Christmas tips from the article. Then add five of your own Christmas tips. Write them below. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

Article's top five Christmas tips	Your top five Christmas tips
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

**7. Let's roleplay 1: Hollywood FM:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Hollywood FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Pippa Middleton's top 10 Xmas tips*.

1	Yourself	3	Duchess of Cambridge
2	Pippa Middleton	4	A famous celebrity

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

**8. Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Pippa Middleton**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

9. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a bar in London on holiday. Start a conversation about Pippa Middleton and her top 10 Xmas tips. *5-minutes.*

10. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Who is the sister of the Duchess of Cambridge?
- 2) Name the on line magazine.
- 3) What tip is at No 1?
- 4) What tip is at No 10?
- 5) Finish this sentence - 'Have guests met by a ...'

**Student B**

- 1) What sort of business is Pippa's family running?
- 2) How should you decorate the tree?
- 3) What tip is at No 2?
- 4) What do you put on a dining table?
- 5) Who is Pippa Middleton?

11. **Pippa Middleton:** Think of five things you know about Pippa Middleton. Add five possible husbands for her. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner.

Pippa Middleton	Top five possible husbands for her
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

12. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: ***Pippa Middleton / Tips for the perfect family Christmas.*** Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

13. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: ***Pippa Middleton / Tips for the perfect family Christmas.*** Your e-mail can be read out in class.

14. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) Pippa Middleton \_\_\_\_\_

b) My tip \_\_\_\_\_

c) Christmas \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION (Students a+b=Pippa qu's, students c+d=decoration qu's!)

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of Pippa Middleton?
- 3) Would you like to be in her shoes?
- 4) Would you like to go on a date with her?
- 5) Should she get a proper job?
- 6) Is the paparazzi getting in her way?
- 7) Why did her ex boyfriend dump her?
- 8) Would you like to lead her lifestyle?
- 9) What advice would you give her?
- 10) Do you agree with her Xmas tips?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) Have you looked at the family business web site (see page 8)?
- 4) What do you like about Pippa?
- 5) What difficulties does she face?
- 6) Who do you think she might marry?
- 7) Why does the press have a love affair with her?
- 8) Should the foreign paparazzi in Britain be banned from following her?
- 9) Is there not a danger of Pippa turning into a Lady Diana figure?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

### Student C questions

- 1) Do you still send Christmas cards? Explain.
- 2) What Christmas decorations do you put in the living room?
- 3) Do you like to make a good first impression when you have guests at Christmas? How do you do this?
- 4) Do you make edible Christmas decorations?
- 5) Have you ever made a Scandinavian gingerbread house for Christmas?
- 6) Do you fill your house with fairy lights?
- 7) Are you a last minute Christmas shopper?
- 8) What do you put on the tree?
- 9) Do you shop on line for presents?
- 10) Do you drink hot mulled wine or hot chocolate at Christmas?

### Student D questions

- 1) Do you wrap and tag all your Christmas presents in advance?
- 2) Do you use Christmas theme dressings and centrepieces for the dining table?
- 3) Do you bake cookies and biscuits cut into festive shapes? Explain.
- 4) Do you like to decorate the tree with colourful decorations and interesting baubles?
- 5) Do you decorate the tree?
- 6) What jobs do you like to do before Christmas?
- 7) Do you put Christmas lights in the garden?
- 8) Do you have the biggest display of Christmas lights in your street?
- 9) Do you have a patterned table cloth on the dining room table?
- 10) What advice would you give Pippa Middleton about Christmas decorations?

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

Pippa Middleton, the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ of the Duchess of Cambridge, has published her guide to the festive season. Pippa's 'Top 10 tips for a Perfect Family Christmas' has been published on the *Party Times* online magazine that she edits for her family's mail-order (2)\_\_\_\_\_. It says the most important thing to remember for "stress-free" (3)\_\_\_\_\_ period is "first impressions". The (4)\_\_\_\_\_ suggests: "Welcome family and neighbours by lighting (5)\_\_\_\_\_ with tea light garden lanterns, LED light sticks and fairy lights wrapped round tree trunks or (6)\_\_\_\_\_.

*business*

*festive*

*sister*

*branches*

*pathways*

*magazine*

Other (1)\_\_\_\_\_ include baking festive biscuits for children to hand out to their classmates as end-of-term (2)\_\_\_\_\_, creating a "fairytale gingerbread house", and sprinkling "edible glitter" on Christmas popcorn. The magazine says: 'Have guests met by a beautiful red berry wreath and windows decorated with silver snowflake cut-outs, reindeers and Christmas trees using (3)\_\_\_\_\_ spray.' There is also advice on decorating the tree. It is suggested bright, unusual baubles are used along with candy (4)\_\_\_\_\_ and edible chocolate (5)\_\_\_\_\_. Patterned (6)\_\_\_\_\_ are suggested as a quick and easy dressing for the dining table but fairy lights take centre stage. Fairy lights play an essential part and can be draped from beams, twisted round (7)\_\_\_\_\_ and hung around door frames for a winter sparkle. The magazine adds: Rustic rattan reindeers nestled in a corner and wrapped with fairy lights look stunning and (8)\_\_\_\_\_."

*decorations*

*magical*

*tips*

*gifts*

*staircases*

*snow*

*tablecloths*

*candles*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

Pippa Middleton, the sister of the \_\_\_\_\_, has published her guide to the festive season. Pippa's 'Top 10 tips for a Perfect Family Christmas' has been published on the *Party Times* online magazine that \_\_\_\_\_ family's mail-order business. It says the most important thing to remember for "stress-free" festive period is "first impressions". The \_\_\_\_\_: "Welcome family and neighbours by lighting pathways with tea light garden lanterns, LED light sticks and fairy lights wrapped round tree trunks or branches.

Other tips include baking \_\_\_\_\_ for children to hand out to their classmates as end-of-term gifts, creating a "fairytale gingerbread house", and sprinkling "\_\_\_\_\_" on Christmas popcorn. The magazine says: 'Have guests met by a beautiful red berry wreath and windows decorated with silver snowflake cut-outs, reindeers and \_\_\_\_\_ using snow spray.' There is also advice on decorating the tree. It is suggested bright, \_\_\_\_\_ are used along with candy candles and edible chocolate decorations. \_\_\_\_\_ are suggested as a quick and easy dressing for the dining table but fairy lights take centre stage.

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

1. Create good first \_\_\_\_\_ when guests arrive with \_\_\_\_\_ and candles
2. Decorate the \_\_\_\_\_ with colourful decorations and interesting \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bake \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ cut into festive shapes
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a Scandinavian \_\_\_\_\_ house
5. Use Christmas theme \_\_\_\_\_ and centrepieces for the \_\_\_\_\_ table
6. Enjoy delicious hot drinks such as \_\_\_\_\_ or hot chocolate
7. Fill your house with \_\_\_\_\_ of all colours to add a \_\_\_\_\_
8. Shop online for \_\_\_\_\_ for a less \_\_\_\_\_ experience
9. Wrap and \_\_\_\_\_ all your gifts in \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ all your Christmas jobs so none are left \_\_\_\_\_ last minute

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Pippa's top 10 Xmas tips

Pippa Middleton, (1)\_\_\_ sister of the Duchess of Cambridge, has published her guide to the festive season. Pippa's 'Top 10 tips (2)\_\_\_ a Perfect Family Christmas' has been published on the *Party Times* online magazine (3)\_\_\_ (4)\_\_\_ edits for (5)\_\_\_ family's mail-order business. It says the most important thing to remember for "stress-free" festive period is "first impressions". The magazine suggests: "Welcome family and neighbours by lighting pathways with tea light garden lanterns, LED light sticks (6)\_\_\_ fairy lights wrapped round tree trunks or branches.

**she**

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Other tips include baking festive biscuits for children to hand out to their classmates (1)\_\_\_ end-of-term gifts, creating a "fairytale gingerbread house", and sprinkling "edible glitter" (2)\_\_\_ Christmas popcorn. The magazine says: 'Have guests met (3)\_\_\_ a beautiful red berry wreath and windows decorated with silver snowflake cut-outs, reindeers and Christmas trees using snow spray.' There is also advice on decorating the tree. (4)\_\_\_ is suggested bright, unusual baubles are used along with candy candles and edible chocolate decorations. Patterned tablecloths are suggested as (5)\_\_\_ quick and easy dressing for the dining table (6)\_\_\_ fairy lights take centre stage. Fairy lights play an essential part and can be draped from beams, twisted round staircases and hung around door frames for a winter sparkle. (7)\_\_\_ magazine adds: Rustic rattan reindeers nestled (8)\_\_\_ a corner and wrapped with fairy lights look stunning and magical."

**a**

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:  
**Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	impressions	11	fairytale
2	stress-free	12	gingerbread
3	important	13	edible
4	welcome	14	Duchess
5	neighbours	15	Cambridge
6	pathways	16	magazine
7	tree trunks	17	snowflake
8	biscuits	18	baubles
9	lanterns	19	decorations
10	business	20	fairylights

## LINKS

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2063826/Pippa-Middleton-party-pieces-unveil-perfect-family-Christmas-guide.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/christmas/8901333/Pippa-Middletons-10-tips-for-a-perfect-family-Christmas.html>

<http://www.partypieces.co.uk/thepartytimes/> - website of Pippa's family

<http://www.andhranews.net/Intl/2011/Pippa-unveils-10-precious-tips-perfect-18932.htm>

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