

Festivals and celebrations rules modals of obligation, prohibition and permission Xmas rules modals of obligation, prohibition and permission

Imagine that the people in your group work in the same office. Discuss what the rules on Xmas in your office should be and try to agree on policies, using the ideas below to help. Your teacher will tell you if you should roleplay a whole meeting on the topic, or just discuss it freely. When you finish, compare your rules with students.

Suggested phrases for talking about rules

You need to = have to - You can't = mustn't = aren't allowed to
You can = are allowed to
You don't have to = don't need to = there is no need to = it isn't necessary to

- arrange a meeting on Xmas day
- arrange a secret Santa
- buy Xmas presents for all your colleagues
- buy Xmas presents just for colleagues who you consider friends
- decorate the lobby area/ office entrance
- decorate the whole office
- decorate your desk space
- drink alcohol at the office Xmas party
- drink alcohol at lunchtime on Xmas Eve
- finish early on Xmas Eve
- give gifts to customers
- have a Xmas party in the cafeteria
- have a Xmas party in the office
- invite your family to the office Xmas party
- play Xmas music
- play Xmas music in the lobby
- play Xmas music in the office
- send personal Xmas cards to colleagues/ clients/ business contacts
- send religious Xmas cards (with nativity scenes, etc) to company contacts
- send the company Xmas cards to your own friends and/ or family
- send your expenses claim early in December
- share photos of the office Xmas party online
- take Boxing Day off
- take Xmas day off
- take Xmas Eve off
- take a week off at Xmas
- take another day off instead of Xmas day
- take home extra, unneeded company Xmas cards
- take part in the office secret Santa
- take photos at the office Xmas party
- take two weeks off at Xmas
- use Xmas greetings when you answer the phone
- use non-religious language ("Happy holidays", "Season's greetings")
- wear Xmas-themed clothes
- work (from home) on Xmas day

Other festivals and celebrations to discuss the rules for

This time without any help, discuss similar rules for other special times such as these:

- After a big business success
- After a big product launch
- After finishing a big project
- An important birthday of a child (e.g. first birthday or eighteenth birthday)
- April Fool's Day
- Armistice Day/ Remembrance Day/ War Memorial Day/ Poppy Day
- Birthdays
- Bonfire Night/ Guy Fawkes Night
- Buddhist festivals
- Carnival
- Cherry blossom viewing
- Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year
- Diwali
- Easter
- Eid
- First day at work
- Gay Pride parades
- Getting divorced
- Getting engaged
- Getting married
- Good Friday
- Halloween
- Hanukkah
- Having a baby
- (American) Independence Day
- Last day at work
- Lent
- May Day protests
- National election days
- National holidays/ Bank holidays
- New Year's Eve/ New Year's Day
- Oktoberfest
- Ramadan
- Retirement
- Saint Patrick's Day
- Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Day
- Skiing season
- Snowy days
- Special birthdays (40th etc)
- Summer festivals
- Tanabata
- Valentine's Day
- Wedding anniversaries
- When an important visitor comes to visit