假树还是真树：哪一个最适合圣诞节？ Fake or real: What's the best tree to have at Christmas?

Hello and happy Christmas!

大家好，圣诞快乐。

This is 6 Minute English with me, Neil.

这里是六分钟英语，我是内尔。

And joining me today is Sam.

今天跟我一起都是萨姆。

Hello.

大家好。

So, Sam, are you feeling excited about Christmas?

那么萨姆，过圣诞节你兴奋吗？

Of course!

当然了！

Time with friends and family, eating lots, partying, presents-and generally indulging-what's not to like?

有亲朋好友相伴，吃美食，开派对，送礼物——简直就是放飞自我——谁会不喜欢呢？

Indulging-allowing yourself to have perhaps too much of something you enjoy.

放纵的——允许自己拥有过多你喜欢的东西。

Well, it only happens once a year, Sam.

好的，它一年只有一次，萨姆。

But for those of us who do celebrate Christmas, it comes at a price.

但是对于我们这些庆祝圣诞节的人来说，它是有代价的。

Yes, well, buying all those presents can be expensive.

是的，买那些礼物会花很多钱。

Not just that, Sam.

不仅如此，萨姆。

I mean it comes at a cost to the environment, as we'll explain shortly.

我指的是它会对环境造成负担，我们稍后会解释的。

But let's start off with a quiz question for you to answer.

我们先用一个为你准备的问题来开始节目吧。

In 2010, a Christmas tree in Belgium was awarded the world record for having the most lights on it-but do you know how many?

在2010年，比利时的一棵圣诞树被授予世界上最多灯的世界纪录——你知道有多少盏灯吗？

Were there a) 19,672, b) 94,672, or c) 194,672?

是 A. 19672盏，B.94672盏，还是 C. 194672盏?

What do you think, Sam?

你怎么看，萨姆?

Well, I don't think you could fit 194,673 lights on a Christmas tree, so I'll say a) 19,672. OK. Well, we'll find out how 'bright' you are at the end of the programme!

嗯，我觉得不太可能把194673盏灯安放在一棵圣诞树上，所以我要选 A. 19672盏。好的，我们会在节目结束的时候知道你有多"灵光"!

Of course, Christmas trees are the ultimate Christmas decoration.

当然，圣诞树是圣诞节的最基本的装饰。

It's part of the Christmas tradition and millions are bought around the world each year.

它是圣诞传统的一部分，而且每年在全世界范围内卖出数以百万计棵。

But what impact do Christmas trees-real and artificial-have on the environment?

但是圣诞树——真的也好，人工的也好——对环境会有什么影响呢?

Well, before we answer that, let's hear from some of the BBC Learning English team who chose to have a real Christmas tree in their home and find out why...

嗯，在我们回答这个问题之前，来听一下BBC学习英语团队的观点吧，他们选择在家里使用真的圣诞树，来看看原因是什么吧......

Well, you've got the smell of it.

嗯，你能够闻到味道。

You've got the look of it.

你能够看到它。

But more importantly, it's Christmas trees are supposed to be symbolic, aren't they?

但是更重要的是，圣诞树是有象征意义的，不是吗?

So the idea of something that stays green all year, so bringing that into your house it, it means something.

它代表着四季常青，能够让你的房子充满活力，它是有寓意的。

I just think a real Christmas tree is more festive and more Christmassy.

我认为一棵真的圣诞树更有节日氛围，也更有圣诞节的氛围。

And it's just the tradition to get a real Christmas tree, that's all.

而且用真的圣诞树是传统，就是这样。

There's something more beautiful about the nature, the smell, the feel, the look of the tree and I like it to be sustainable.

还有关于大自然的更美的东西，树的味道、感觉、外形，而且我喜欢它的可持续性。

So, as long as I get my tree from a person that promises to grow two or three in its place, then I'm really, really happy.

所以只要我从一个承诺在这里种两三棵树的人那里得到我的树，我就会感到非常非常开心。

Yes, I agree-you can't beat having a real Christmas tree.

是的，我同意——你无法拒绝拥有一棵真的圣诞树。

And as Phil said, it's symbolic-it represents something important-and here a Christmas tree is the symbol of Christmas.

正如菲尔所说的，它具有象征意义——它代表着重要的东西——而这里圣诞树是圣诞节的象征。

And as Jiaying mentioned, it's a tradition-something that's done regularly and has become the expected thing to do-and I do agree it makes things more festive-a word to describe the joyful feeling you get when celebrating something like Christmas.

而且如佳颖提到的，它是一种传统——定期会被做的事情，而且已经成为了人们的一种期待——而且我确实同意它增添了节日氛围——这个词描述的是你在庆祝类似圣诞节这样的节日时所获得的愉悦感。

But of course all these trees are often thrown away, which is wasteful.

但是当然最后所有这些树常常会被扔掉，这很浪费。

That's why Roy mentioned his tree being sustainable-which means they can continue to be grown and cut down over a longer period so it's less harmful to the environment.

这就是罗伊提到它的树是可持续的原因——可持续的意思是它们能够继续被种植并且在更久以后会被砍倒，这样对环境的伤害会小一些。

Well, an alternative to a real Christmas tree is a fake or artificial one, which is what Feifei from our team has in her house.

嗯，真圣诞树的替代品是一棵假树或者人造树，我们团队的菲菲家里就是放置的假树。

What are the reasons, why?

原因是什么呢？

We have a plastic Christmas tree, which we've had for about nine years.

我们有一棵塑料圣诞树，它在我们家已经大约九年了。

So it's plastic so you can re-use it every year and it's more economical, and we don't have to keep buying new trees.

因为它是塑料的，所以你每年都可以重复使用它，而且它更划算，而且我们不用一直买新树。

So Feifei's fake tree is made of plastic-so that's not great for recycling-but the good thing is she uses it year after year, which makes it economical-which means it doesn't cost a lot of money, it's good value.

所以菲菲的假树是用塑料做的——所以它不适用于回收——但是好处是她可以一年年地重复使用，这样很划算——意思是它不会花费很多钱，性价比高。

Ah, but even Feifei admits it doesn't have the smell and feel of a real tree.

啊，但是连菲菲都承认它没有真树的味道和感觉。

It's a dilemma, isn't it, Neil?

这是个两难的境地，不是吗，内尔？

Yes, what's best for us and what's best for the environment?

是的，那么什么对我们来说是最好的，什么又是对环境最好的呢？

The BBC's Reality Check programme found that real trees take about 12 years to grow and as they do, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere and nitrogen from the soil-so a good thing.

BBC的《真相检查》节目发现真树需要12年来种植，所以它们能够从大气中吸收碳，并从土壤中吸收氮——这是件好事。

But when it's chopped down it starts to release emissions back into the atmosphere-especially if you have to transport it to your home.

但是当它被砍倒，它就开始将排放物释放回大气——尤其如果你将它运到你家里。

And when Christmas is over, if it ends up in landfill, the tree's carbon footprint will be higher.

而且当圣诞节结束，如果它最终被扔到垃圾填埋场，这棵树的碳足迹会更高。

But its carbon footprint will be lowered, if it's recycled or composted-that's the process of allowing it to decay and then adding it to the ground to improve soil quality.

但是它的碳足迹会更被降低，如果它被回收或用于堆肥的话——堆肥指的是让它腐败然后进入土壤改善土壤质量的过程。

A fake tree on the other hand is usually imported, and can't usually be recycled but, as Feifei mentioned, it can be re-used.

另一方面假树常常是引进的，而且常常无法回收，但是正如菲菲提到的那样，它可以被重复使用。

But without any type of Christmas tree, where would we put all those lights I mentioned earlier, Sam?

但是如果没有任何种类的圣诞树，我们又能把那些我之前提到的灯放到哪里呢？

I asked you: In 2010, a Christmas tree in Belgium was awarded the world record for having the most lights on it-but do you know how many?

我之前问你：在2010年，比利时的一棵圣诞树被授予世界上最多灯的世界纪录——但是你知道有多少盏灯吗？

What did you say, Sam?

你说的多少，萨姆？

I think I said 19,672. Ooo,dear, not very bright I'm afraid!

我想我说的是19672盏。哦，天呐，恐怕不够亮哦！

There were in fact 194,672!

事实上是194672盏。

Wow, think of the electricity that must have used!

哇，想想要用多少电啊！

Indeed.

确实。

Well, let's enlighten everyone with some of the vocabulary we've discussed today.

好的，我们用今天讨论到的单词来照亮大家吧。

OK, well, we started talking about indulging-that means allowing yourself to have perhaps too much of something you enjoy.

好的，我们先从谈论放纵的开始——这个词的意思是让你自己拥有过多你喜欢的东西。

When something is symbolic, it represents something important.

如果某事是有象征意义的，那么它代表着重要的事物。

And the word festive describes the joyful feeling you get when celebrating something like Christmas.

有节日氛围的描述的是你在庆祝像圣诞节这样的节日时所感受到的愉悦。

Like the festive jumper you are wearing today, Neil-very jolly!

就像你今天穿的有节日氛围的针织套衫，内尔——非常棒！

OK, next we mentioned sustainable-which means the ability to do something over a long period of time without harming the environment.

好的，接下来我们提到了可持续的——意思是在不伤害环境的情况下长期做某事的能力。

Economical describes doing something that doesn't cost a lot of money, it's good value.

划算的描述的是做某件不会花太多钱的事情，性价比高。

And when something is composted, it is allowed to decay-and it turns into compost which can be added back into the soil to improve its quality.

如果某物被堆肥，它被允许腐败——然后它会成为能够添加到土壤里改善其质量的肥料。

Thank you, Sam.

谢谢你，萨姆。

And that brings us to the end of 6 Minute English for now.

六分钟英语就到这里结束了。

It just leaves us to wish you a very happy Christmas.

我们要祝你们圣诞快乐。

Goodbye.

再见。

Byebye.

再见。