

Anna: Hello, from Let's Learn English! Happy **Holidays**!

Dr. Jill: During the holidays, we spend time with our families and friends.

Anna: So, we made a **holiday** video **card** for you!

ALL: Happy Holidays!

Anna: People in the United States **celebrate** the holidays in many different ways.

Dr. Jill: There are three big holidays at this time of year: **Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Christmas**.

Phil: Hanukkah and Kwanzaa **last** for many days.

Anna: **Candles** are important to both celebrations. Sometimes people call Hanukkah the Festival of Lights.

Pete: Kwanzaa celebrations often include music, songs, dance and storytelling.

Phil: Christmas falls on December 25.

Penelope: **Christians** believe this holiday is the birthday of **Jesus Christ**.

Anna: **Religious** people often go to places of **worship** to celebrate the holidays.

Phil: But many religious and **nonreligious** people celebrate the holidays.

Pete: Some families decorate their homes and put up Christmas trees.

Phil: **Presents** are a big part of Christmas.

Penelope: Young children tell **Santa Claus** what they want. They write him letters or visit him in department stores.

Dr. Jill: All these holidays have one thing in common – big meals and special foods!

Anna: The most important part of this time of the year is spending time with family and friends.

## New Words

**candle** - *n.* wax that has been formed into a stick or another shape and has a string in the middle that can be burned

**celebrate** - *v.* to do something special or enjoyable for an important event, occasion or holiday

**Christmas** - *n.* a Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ or the period of time that comes before and after this holiday

**Hanukkah** - *n.* an eight-day Jewish holiday that is celebrated in November

or **December** - *n.* the 12th and last month of the year

**holiday** - *n.* a special day of celebration

**holiday card** - *n.* an illustrated piece of card or high quality paper featuring an expression of friendship usually given on holidays

**Jesus Christ** - *n.* the man who Christians believe is the son of God and whose life, death, and resurrection as reported in the New Testament of the Bible are the basis of the Christian religion

**Kwanzaa** - *n.* an African-American cultural festival held from December 26 to January 1

**present** - *n.* something that you give to someone especially as a way of showing affection or thanks

**religious** - *adj.* believing in a god or a group of gods and following the rules of a religion (**nonreligious** = not following the rules of a religion)

**Santa Claus** - *n.* a jolly man with a white beard and a red suit who gives toys to children at Christmas

**worship** - *n.* the act of showing respect and love for a god especially by praying with other people who believe in the same god