

# Fascinating Christmas Facts

We often think we know a lot about Christmas but do we really? Read on to learn some fun facts about some Christmas traditions.

## The Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech, also known as the Royal Christmas Message, is an important part of Christmas Day for many people.

The message is read by the King or Queen of the United Kingdom on Christmas Day. It looks back over the past year, and includes a personal message from the King or Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II has read the Royal Christmas Message since she was crowned in 1953.



In 1932, King George V read the first King's Speech on the BBC radio. It was thought to be a good way for the world to hear the King.

His son, George VI (The Queen's father) continued reading the Royal Christmas Message when he became King and by 1957 it was on television as well as being on the radio.

## Christmas Number Ones

The very first pop music single to be at number one on Christmas Day was Al Martino's song 'Here in My Heart' in 1952.

The Beatles reached Christmas number one three years in a row during the 1960s, and St. Winifred's School Choir got to number one singing 'There's No One Quite Like Grandma' in 1980.

Cliff Richard has had four number ones on Christmas Day. In 1962, he was beaten by Elvis Presley and his song 'Return to Sender'.

In 2015, the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir sang 'A Bridge Over You' which stopped Justin Bieber from being number one with 'Love Yourself'. Bieber tweeted, "Just heard the news. Amazing. That is what Christmas is all about! Very cool!"

Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' is the highest-earning Christmas song of all time. Written by Irving Berlin, it has sold more than 100 million copies since Bing Crosby sang it in 1942.



# Questions

1. When is The Queen's Speech read? Tick one.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

2. When did Queen Elizabeth II start to read The Queen's Speech? Tick one.

1953

1952

1935

3. Why did King George V agree to read The King's Speech?

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4. What happened to the Royal Christmas Message in 1957? Tick one.

The speech was just on the television.

The speech was on both the television and the radio.

No one read the speech that year.

5. Match up the sentences.

In 1980,

Elvis Presley was at number one for Christmas.

In 1952,

St. Winifred's School Choir were at number one for Christmas.

In 1962,

Al Martino was at number one for Christmas.

6. Find and copy one word which means **someone got there first**.

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7. How many Christmas number ones has Cliff Richard had? Tick one.

2

3

4

8. Who did not reach Christmas number one in 2015 with their song 'Love Yourself'? Tick one.

Bing Crosby

The Beatles

Justin Bieber

# Answers

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**Christmas Day**

Boxing Day

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**King George V agreed to read The King's Speech because it was thought to be a good way for the world to hear the king.**

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**beaten**

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 Bing Crosby The Beatles **Justin Bieber**