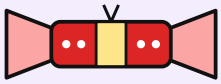
Name: Datum:

Crackers Are Pulled: Christmas in the Passive

Traditions in Britain and the USA – four tenses



Passive = form of **be** + **past participle** (3rd form)

simple present Crackers **are pulled**. simple past The card **was sent**.

present perfect The tree **has been lit**. will-future The lights **will be switched on**.

Watch the signal words: *every year, in 1843, since 1947, next year …*

1 Christmas in Britain and the USA. Tick the correct passive form. The letters make the name of a British holiday (two words).

Solution word: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1. Every year at Christmas dinner in Britain, crackers _____ by two people. *(pull)*
□ are pulled **(B)** □ were pulled **(K)** □ have been pulled **(T)**

2. A paper crown and a joke _____ inside every cracker. *(hide)* □ is hidden **(E)** □ are hidden **(O)** □ hid **(U)**

3. The first Christmas card _____ in London in 1843. *(design)*
□ is designed **(R)** □ has designed **(L)** □ was designed **(X)**

4. Every year since 1947, a tree _____ to London by Oslo. *(give)* □ has been given **(I)** □ is given **(A)** □ was given **(P)**

5. In the USA, many houses _____ with lights every December. *(decorate)*
□ decorate **(M)** □ are decorated **(N)** □ was decorated **(H)**

6. In the USA, cookies and milk _____ out for Santa. *(leave)* □ are leaved **(S)** □ are left **(G)** □ left **(W)**

7. Every 25 December, the King's Christmas message _____ at 3 pm. *(broadcast)*
□ is broadcast **(D)** □ broadcasts **(C)** □ is broadcasting **(F)**

8. In 1870, Christmas _____ a federal holiday in the USA. *(make)* □ is made **(V)** □ was made **(A)** □ has made **(J)**

9. Next year, the lights in Oxford Street _____ in November again. *(switch on)*
□ will be switched on **(Y)** □ are switched on **(Z)** □ were switched on **(Q)**

2 Active → passive. Rewrite the sentences. Keep the tense. Use *by* only if the doer is important.

a. People eat mince pies in December.

b. Families hang up stockings on Christmas Eve.

c. A London sweet maker invented Christmas crackers.

d. Oh no! Somebody has eaten the Christmas pudding!

3 Write two passive sentences about a festival or tradition that is important to you (e.g. New Year, Eid, Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas). *Example: At New Year, fireworks are set off at midnight.*

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Crackers Are Pulled: Christmas in the Passive – Lösung

Task 1

1. Every year at Christmas dinner in Britain, crackers _____ by two people. *(pull)* → **are pulled (B)**
2. A paper crown and a joke _____ inside every cracker. *(hide)* → **are hidden (O)**
3. The first Christmas card _____ in London in 1843. *(design)* → **was designed (X)**
4. Every year since 1947, a tree _____ to London by Oslo. *(give)* → **has been given (I)**
5. In the USA, many houses _____ with lights every December. *(decorate)* → **are decorated (N)**
6. In the USA, cookies and milk _____ out for Santa. *(leave)* → **are left (G)**
7. Every 25 December, the King's Christmas message _____ at 3 pm. *(broadcast)* → **is broadcast (D)**
8. In 1870, Christmas _____ a federal holiday in the USA. *(make)* → **was made (A)**
9. Next year, the lights in Oxford Street _____ in November again. *(switch on)* → **will be switched on (Y)**

Solution word:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	O	X	I	N	G	D	A	Y

BOXING DAY is 26 December, a public holiday in Britain. Zeitform-Signale: regelmäßige Bräuche (*every December*, Christmas dinner, TV message) → simple present, *in 1843 / in 1870* → simple past, *since 1947* → present perfect, *next year* → will-future. Falle in Satz 6: *leave – left – left* (unregelmäßig, nicht „leaved"). Satz 7: *broadcast – broadcast – broadcast*; die Weihnachtsansprache des Königs läuft jedes Jahr am 25. Dezember um 15 Uhr britischer Zeit. In Satz 1, 4 und 9 sind alle drei Möglichkeiten Passivformen: Dort entscheidet allein das Zeitsignal.

Task 2

a. Mince pies are eaten in December.

b. Stockings are hung up on Christmas Eve.

c. Christmas crackers were invented by a London sweet maker.

d. Oh no! The Christmas pudding has been eaten!

a), b), d): Die Handelnden (people, families, somebody) sind unwichtig, also ohne *by*. c): *by a London sweet maker* ist eine neue Information und bleibt stehen. d): present perfect bleibt present perfect (*has eaten → has been eaten*).

Task 3

Individual answers, e.g. *At Diwali, candles and lamps are lit. Sweets are shared with friends and neighbours. / At Christmas, presents are wrapped and put under the tree.*

Hintergrund: Die erste kommerzielle Weihnachtskarte ließ Henry Cole 1843 in London drucken. Den Baum auf dem Trafalgar Square schenkt Oslo seit 1947 als Dank für die britische Unterstützung im Zweiten Weltkrieg. Christmas crackers gehen auf den Londoner Süßwarenhändler Tom Smith (19. Jahrhundert) zurück.

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