Christmas Conversation Questions

Set 1. The Run-Up

The rule. Every answer includes a time and a place.

Set 2. The Gifts

The rule. A yes needs the story. A no gets one more question: "Would you?"

1. The Run-Up A2-B1	2. The Gifts A2-B1
When do the first Christmas decorations appear where you live, and what do you think about that?	Have you ever bought a gift at the very last minute? What did you buy?
1. The Run-Up A2-B1	**2. The Gifts A2-B1**
What is the most over-the-top decoration you have seen in a shop, a street or an office?	Have you ever received a gift you didn't understand? What was it?
1. The Run-Up A2-B1	**2. The Gifts A2-B1**
Which is better, a real tree or an artificial one, and why?	Have you ever taken part in a Secret Santa? How did it go?
1. The Run-Up A2-B1	**2. The Gifts A2-B1**
What do shops and ads do in December to make people buy more?	Have you ever given away a present you didn't want? Who got it?
1. The Run-Up A2-B1	**2. The Gifts A2-B1**
What sound, smell or song tells you that December has really started?	Have you ever made a gift by hand instead of buying one? What was it?

Christmas Conversation Questions

Set 3. The Table

The rule. Describe it so a partner from another country could picture it.

Set 4. Then and Now

The rule. Compare two times: "When I was a child... Now..."

3. The Table B1-B2	4. Then and Now B1-B2
What does a big holiday meal look like where you are from, from the first dish to the last?	What did December mean to you as a child, and what does it mean now?
3. The Table B1-B2	4. Then and Now B1-B2
Which holiday dish would you be happy never to eat again, and which could you eat every week?	Which tradition from your childhood have you stopped, and why?
3. The Table B1-B2	4. Then and Now B1-B2
How is the work of a big meal shared out, from shopping to washing up?	Which tradition would you like to start, or bring back?
3. The Table B1-B2	4. Then and Now B1-B2
What question do guests often ask at the table that people would rather not answer?	How have the holidays changed where you live in the last twenty years?
3. The Table B1-B2	4. Then and Now B1-B2
How do you change the subject politely when a conversation at the table gets uncomfortable?	Which tradition from another country would you happily borrow?

Christmas Conversation Questions

Set 5. Screens and Songs

The rule. Pick one and give two reasons. "Both" is not an answer.

5. Screens and Songs	B2-C1
Would you rather watch a Christmas film you know by heart or one you have never seen?	
5. Screens and Songs	B2-C1
Would you rather spend December without Christmas songs or without Christmas films?	
5. Screens and Songs	B2-C1
Would you rather have a quiet holiday at home or a busy one full of plans?	
5. Screens and Songs	B2-C1
Would you rather get a gift chosen for you or the money to choose your own?	
5. Screens and Songs	B2-C1
Would you rather be in charge of the holiday music or the holiday food?	

Set 6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither

The rule. Answer about yourself, or about people where you live.

6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither	B1 to C1
What do people where you live do with time off at the end of the year?	
6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither	B1 to C1
What is the best way to spend a long winter evening?	
6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither	B1 to C1
How do you know a year is really over: a date, a party or something else?	
6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither	B1 to C1
What would your ideal New Year's Eve look like, and how close is it to real life?	
6. Christmas and New Year, or Neither	B1 to C1
Which month of this year would you happily live again, and why?	