
21
Grammarsaurus



Christmas

"yearly Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus"

The word **Christmas** is a stem.

Can you hypothesise which two morphemes combine to build this word?

_____ ⊕ _____ = _____

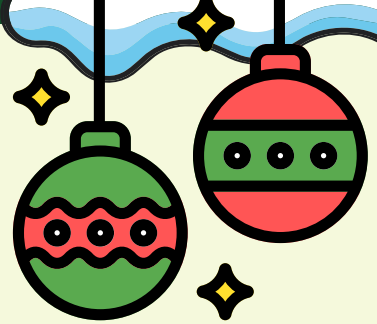


The word **Christmas** is a stem.

Did you break it down like this?

Christ "Jesus Christ" + **mas** "mass" = **Christmas**

Grammarsaurus







Christmas

"yearly Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus"

Christ + **mas**

"Jesus Christ" "mass"

Have you ever wondered what the **mas** in **Christmas** means?

Christmas comes from the Old English phrase **Cristes mæsse**, meaning "**Christ's Mass**". A **mass** is a Christian church service.

Surprisingly, the word **Mass** comes from a Latin word meaning "**dismissal**". This might be because people were told they could leave at the end of the service!

Over time, **mass** was shortened to **-mas** in the names of special Christian celebrations.



Grammarsaurus



Christmas

"yearly Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus"

Christ "Jesus Christ" + **mas** "mass"

Let's read some sentences containing stem **Christmas**.

Every **Christmas**, the family gathered together to share a special meal.

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus at **Christmas**.

Although **Christmas** is celebrated around the world, traditions can be very different from country to country.

Can you put the word Christmas in a sentence of your own?



Grammarsaurus



Did you know that some words come from people's names?

Christmas comes from **Christ's Mass**, while **Michaelmas** and **Martinmas** are festivals named after St Michael and St Martin.

But it's not just festivals! The words **sandwich**, **cardigan** and **wellington** also come from people's names.

Words that come from names such as these are called **eponyms**!

Can you think of anything else that might have been named after a person?



Grammarsaurus