

Santa Claus and the police

On Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, a young policeman stopped an old man in Ersham Market Square. The old man, who had a long white beard, was wearing a red suit. He had a sack which was filled with Christmas presents. The old man was ringing a bell and asking shoppers in the market to buy a Christmas present from one of the local shops. The man said he would give the presents to children in Ersham.

The young policeman, Constable Davis, approached the old man and asked him who he was, and what he was doing. The old man told the policeman that he was Santa Claus. He said he was collecting Christmas presents for the children in Ersham.

Constable Davis was suspicious and did not believe him. He asked to see the old man's

driving license. The old man said he didn't have a driving license because he didn't drive a car. Constable Davis asked him if he had any other identity document to prove that he was Santa Claus.

Santa Claus said he didn't have any documents, so Constable Davis asked him to come to the police station.

"I can't come to the police station now," said Santa Claus, "I have to go home, clean my sledge and feed my reindeer." Constable Davis phoned Sergeant Harris at the police station and explained the situation. Sergeant Harris laughed when he heard the story. He told Constable Davis to come to the police station. "Young man, we need to have a little talk," said Sergeant Harris.

Classroom Resources

NEWS Santa Claus and the Police

A Before you read

You are going to read an extract from a local newspaper, *The Ersham Chronicle*. Look at these sentences from the text. Choose the correct words.

- 1 On Saturday | evening | afternoon |, at 3 o'clock, a young policeman stopped an old man in Ersham Market Square.
- 2 The old man, | that | who | had a long white beard, was wearing a red suit.
- 3 He had a sack | which | who | was filled with Christmas presents.
- 4 The old man was ringing a bell and asking shoppers in the market | buy | to buy | a Christmas present from one of the local shops.
- 5 The man said he would give the presents | for | to | children in Ersham.
- 6 The old man said he didn't have a driving license | why | because | he didn't drive a car.
- 7 Constable Davis asked him if he had any | else | other | document to prove he was Santa Claus.
- 8 "I | must | have | to go home, clean my sledge and feed my reindeer."
- 9 Sergeant Harris laughed | when | if | he heard the story.
- 10 "Young man, we | need to | can | have a little talk."

B Read the text

Read the text and check your answers to Exercise 1. Look carefully at the **wrong** answers. Think about why they are wrong.

Read the sentences below. Mark them TRUE, FALSE or DON'T KNOW.

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | It was dark, when Constable Davis spoke to the old man. | T / F / DK |
| 2 | The old man's jacket and trousers were the same colour. | T / F / DK |
| 3 | The old man was wearing black boots. | T / F / DK |
| 4 | The old man's sack was empty. | T / F / DK |
| 5 | The old man was making a noise. | T / F / DK |
| 6 | Constable Davis thought that the old man was a policeman. | T / F / DK |
| 7 | The old man was driving without a driving license. | T / F / DK |
| 8 | Constable Davis wanted to know if the old man was really Santa Claus. | T / F / DK |
| 9 | Constable Davis told the old man to go to the police station. | T / F / DK |
| 10 | The old man's sledge was dirty. | T / F / DK |
| 11 | Sergeant Harris was angry when he heard about the old man. | T / F / DK |
| 12 | Sergeant Harris was older than Constable Davis. | T / F / DK |

Classroom Resources

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C Vocabulary

Find words in the text which have these meanings.

- 1 Hair which grows on a man's face. _____
- 2 A matching set of clothes. _____
- 3 A gift. _____
- 4 A large bag. _____
- 5 In the area. _____
- 6 Thinking that something bad or illegal is happening. _____
- 7 An official permit for motorists. _____
- 8 A vehicle without an engine which slides over snow. _____
- 9 An animal, like an antelope, which lives in Polar Regions. _____
- 10 Made a noise which indicates amusement. _____

D Creative writing

Imagine what Sergeant Harris said during his 'little talk' with Constable Davis. Write the dialogue.

Teachers' Notes and Key

Please read the text before using this worksheet. The English language classroom is not the best place to destroy our learners' belief in mythical characters. Many learners will find the story in the text amusing.

- A 1 afternoon, 2 who, 3 which, 4 to buy, 5 for, 6 because, 7 other, 8 have, 9 when, 10 need to
- B 1F, 2T, 3DK, 4F, 5T, 6F /DK, 7F, 8T, 9F, 10T/DK, 11F, 12T/DK (ask learners to find evidence in the text to find evidence in the text to support their answers)
- C 1 beard, 2 suit, 3 present, 4 sack, 5 local, 6 suspicious, 7 driving license, 8 sledge, 9 reindeer, 10 laughed
- D Open answers

The text contains many elements of UK culture which learners may be able to identify. If you ask them to recreate the story in a public space in a local city and make any changes to adapt it to their own culture, these changes will make the UK cultural elements more obvious.