



Christmas: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

I will talk about my views on Christmas. This time, I want to tell you my thinking of Santa and what we do on Christmas. First, I will talk about Santa. I had believed in Santa until I was young. Of course, I don't believe in Santa at all now. However, when I was young I didn't believe that my mother and father bought me a gift. There were times I suspect that my mother and father bought me a gift. To confirm the suspicion, I tried many time. For example, I wrote a letter and I didn't sleep as much as possible. But I didn't know my mother and father are Santa. The trigger that I knew my mother and father were Santa was that my mother asked me "what do you want to get on Christmas?". Mostly I knew the fact, but I was surprised and my dream was gone. It is my Santa story.

Second, I will talk about what we do on Christmas. My family spend at home on Christmas. We make a Christmas cake and eat sushi and chicken. Every year, I have made a Christmas cake. However, I won't be able to make a Christmas cake because of class and part-time job. Also, my sister will have part-time job and my father won't be able to join the party. So, this year's will be sad Christmas.

I like Christmas very much, because the illumination is so beautiful and I like Christmas color such as red and green. From next year, I want to buy a special Christmas gift for me

How can you improve the writing?

As it is writing, we do not need: "I will talk about."

Want would like to (more formal)

on Christmas Day during/at Christmas

had believed used to believe (over a period of time)

Direct speech: My mother asked me "what do you want to get for Christmas?"

Reported speech: My mother asked me what I wanted to get for Christmas. (Better way to tell the story)

Contrasting signals: But / However / Still / Although

Too much repeating : mother and father / parents / them / they

Santa Claus / Santa / Father Christmas / this person / him / he

Christmas / this time of year / this festive period

Christmas cake / festive dessert / this cake

Regarding **Christmas**, I would like to tell you how I believed in **Santa Claus** and what we now do at **Christmas**. I used to believe in **Santa Claus** until I was 8 years old. Of course, I don't believe in **Santa Claus** at all now but when I was younger, I would never had thought that **my mother and father** would buy me gifts although there were times when I suspected **my mother and father**. I was suspicious about who **Santa Claus** was and I tried many times to find out more by writing letters to **Santa Claus** and staying up. I failed in my attempts but I had no idea that **my mother and father** were in fact **Santa Claus**. However, this changed when my mother asked me what I wanted to get for **Christmas**. Even though I suspected something, I was surprised when I actually found out who **Santa Claus** was and my dream had gone.

Today, my family spend **Christmas** at home. We usually make a **Christmas cake** and eat sushi and chicken – not roast turkey. I used to make a **Christmas cake** but, unfortunately, I won't be able to make a **Christmas cake** because of classes and my part-time job. Also, my sister will have to work at her part-time job and my father won't be able to join the party as he is busy too. So, this year, it will be a quiet **Christmas**. Still, I like **Christmas** very much because the illuminations are so beautiful and I like the rich **Christmas** colours of red and green as it brightens the place. However, from next year, I will definitely buy myself a special **Christmas** present to celebrate.



From the above work, try to chunk the speech

Find the pause – Chunking short / longer //

CAPITALISE the stressed (important) word

I LIKE this class / because the teacher is GOOD / and everyone is FRIENDly. // ALso, / my English is getting BEtter.//

Regarding Christmas, / I would like to tell you / how I believed in Santa Claus / and what we now do at this time of year. // I used to believe in Santa / until I was 8 years old. // Of course, / I don't believe in him at all now / but when I was younger, / I would never had thought / that my mother and father would buy me gifts / although there were times when I suspected them. // I was suspicious about who Father Christmas was / and I tried many times / to find out more / by writing letters to him and staying up. // I failed in my attempts / but I had no idea / that my parents were in fact / this jolly Christmas icon. // However, / this changed when my mother asked me / what I wanted to get for Christmas. // Even though I suspected something, / I was surprised when I actually found out / who Santa Claus was / and my dream had gone. //

Today, / my family spend Christmas at home. // We usually make a Christmas cake / and eat sushi and chicken / – not roast turkey. // I used to make this festive dessert but, / unfortunately, / I won't be able to make this cake / because of classes and my part-time job. // Also, / my sister will have to work at her part-time job / and my father won't be able to join the party / as he is busy too. // So, this year, / it will be a quiet Christmas. // Still I like this time of year very much / because the illuminations are so beautiful / and I like the rich festive colours of red and green / as it brightens the place. // However, / from next year, / I will definitely buy myself / a special Christmas present to celebrate.//