

1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

1. You are going to read a text with the title *Yuletide*. Look at the headings and the picture. Discuss in a small group:
 - a. Do you celebrate Christmas?
 - b. What are your Christmas traditions? How do you celebrate Christmas at home? And at school?
 - c. Look at the picture. What do you see in the picture? Describe it in English.
 - d. What in the picture do you recognize from the way you celebrate Christmas at home? What is different?
2. Read the explanation.

EXPLANATION

When you read a text in English it is common that you come across words you don't know. Most of the time it is impossible to look up all those words in a dictionary, because that will take too much time. Therefore, it is a good idea to try to **clarify** the meaning of the word first, by using the text and your background knowledge. And, of course, you look at the word itself. Does it look like a word in your own language? Are you familiar with certain parts of the word?

However, sometimes the text doesn't give you enough clues to clarify the meaning of a word. When the word is really important to understand the text, you can use a **dictionary**. When you use a dictionary, you should pay attention to the following:

- In a dictionary the words are sorted in **alphabetical order**. Therefore, you have to look at the first letter of a word to know where you can find this word in the dictionary. After the first letter, you look at the second letter and so on.
- Sometimes you come across an irregular verb (for instance: *caught*). In that case you look up the **base form** or **stem** (in this case: *to catch*).
- Sometimes you can find **several explanations** for a word in a dictionary. Then you choose the explanation that fits best in the text.

3. Now read the text together with other classmates. While reading underline or highlight all the words you don't know. You are going to look up a number of these words after reading the text.
4. In the following table you find a number of difficult words from the text. Work together with another classmate. Look up the words in the text and circle them.
 - One of you tries to find out what the word means by using the text.
 - The other one looks up the meaning of the word in a dictionary.Compare both meanings. Which one fits best?

Word	Meaning without using the dictionary	Meaning by using the dictionary
the yuletide (title)		
secular (line 8, 16)		
religious (line 8, 9)		
the nativity scene (line 12)		
the manger (line 13)		
the shepherd (line 14)		
the evergreen tree (line 18)		
towering (line 28)		
the bonfire (line 39)		
to draw a crowd (line 53-54)		
to outweigh something (line 57)		
to carol (line 62)		

5. Now look up the meaning of the words you underlined while reading and which are not in the table.

2. MAKE A MIND MAP

1. A key visual can help you understand a text better. A mind map is an example of a key visual. Read the explanation.

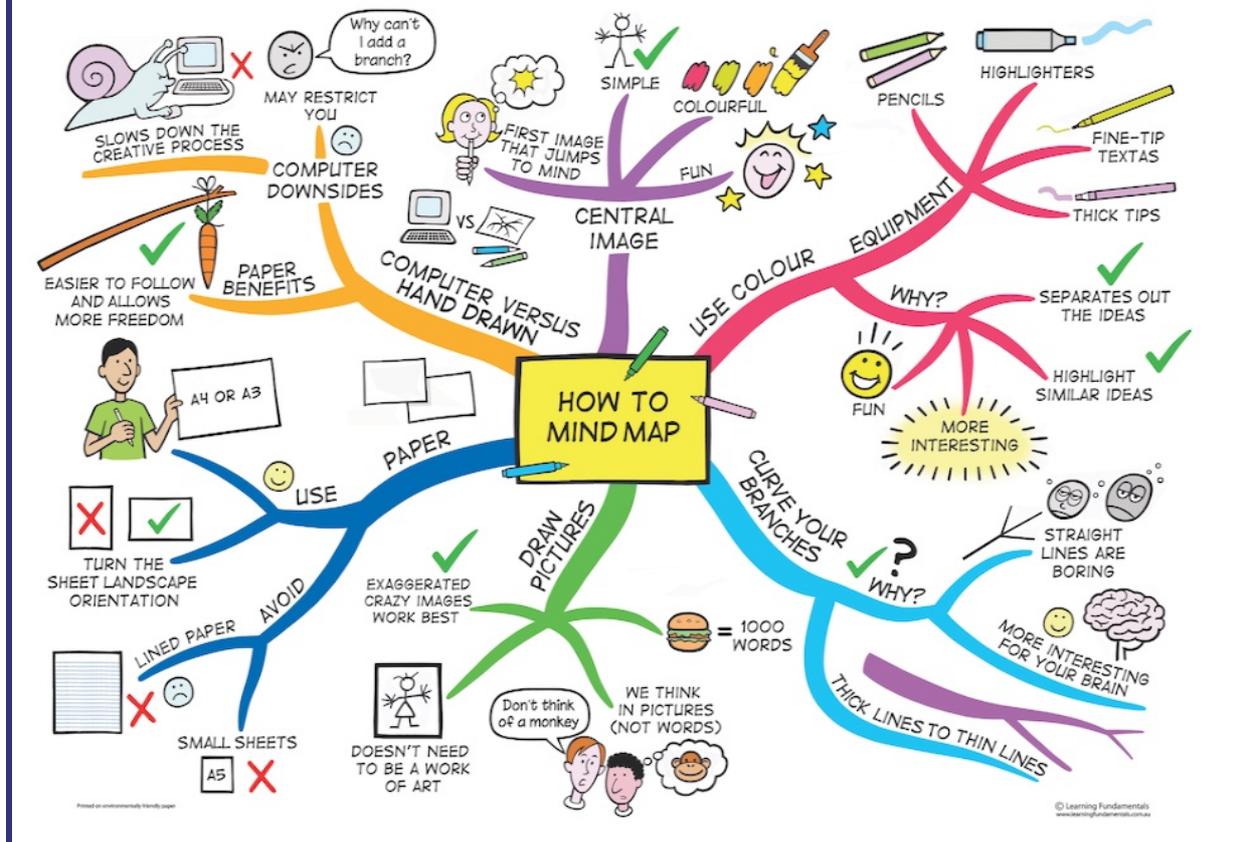
KEY VISUAL

A **mind map** is a kind of **wordweb** with **colours and drawings**.

A mind map gives you an overview of the text.

This is how you make a **mind map**:

- Use a blank sheet.
- Write the topic of the text in the middle of this sheet.
- Write the most important things about this topic down. Write them around the topic. Underline those words or sentences with different colours.
- Write next to each important word or sentence the information that you think is important. Underline these words and sentences with the same colour, but draw a thinner line.
- Draw pictures to make your mind map clearer.
- Use different colours.



2. Now make a mind map about Christmas. What is typical about Christmas? Use the information from the text in your mind map. Complete the mind map with what you know of Christmas, but is not mentioned in the text.

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Read the introduction again. What makes Christmas 'the most wonderful time of the year', according to the text?

2. Which figures are in a nativity scene (line 12)?
- A. Joseph, Maria, baby Jezus, an evergreen tree, the Three Kings and farm animals
 - B. Joseph, Maria, baby Jezus, shepherds, the Three Kings and farm animals
 - C. Joseph, Maria, baby Jezus, the Three Kings, farm animals and Prince Albert
 - D. Joseph, Maria, baby Jezus, the Three Kings, farm animals and Santa Claus

3. Read lines 43-54. What is traditionally the moment when people share Christmas presents?

4. Read lines 55-68. What are the similarities in worldwide Christmas traditions?

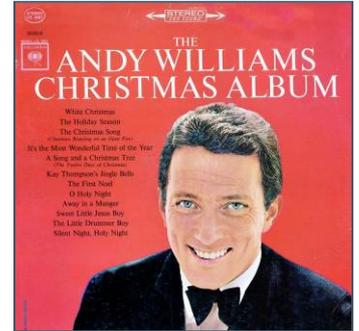
5. What is another word for *fabulous* (line 67)?

6. What are your plans for Christmas this year? What Christmas present would you wish for? Write it down below.



4. IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

When you think of Christmas you probably also think of Christmas songs which are played everywhere. The text *Yuletide* even starts with the first line of a famous Christmas song: 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year' by Andy Williams. You can find the song text below.



1. Listen to the song and fill in the gaps.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR – ANDY WILLIAMS

It's the most wonderful time of the year

With _____ jingle

belling

And _____ telling you be of

_____ cheer

It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the _____ of all

With those _____ and

gay _____

When _____ come to call

It's the _____ of all

Chorus:

There'll be _____ for

hosting

_____ for _____

And _____ out in the

There'll be _____

And tales of the glories of the

Christmases _____

It's the most wonderful time of the year

There'll be much mistletoeing

And _____

When _____

It's the most wonderful time of the year

Chorus

Yes, the most wonderful time

Oh, the most wonderful time

Of the year

2. Now translate the song into your own language. Write your translation on a blank sheet.