

Advent Heart Language Calendar

Jesus Film Project
A Cru Ministry

How do you say Merry Christmas in the world's languages?

DEC
01



Krismasi Njema

(kree-smah-see nyeh-mah)

Swahili

Languages often borrow words from each other. That's the case with Swahili, which borrows some words from English. Music in Swahili is "muziki." Do you like Christmas "muziki"? What's your favorite song? (Swahili is spoken in many countries, including Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda in Africa.)

DEC
02



Maligayang Pasko

(mah-lee-guy-ung pas-koh)

Tagalog

Tagalog is spoken in the Philippines, where there are many unique Christian traditions, like making the *parol*, a popular lantern decoration. It's a star made of cellophane or paper that represents the star followed by the wise men.

DEC
03



መልካም ገና

(mel-uh-kam guh-na)

Amharic

Amharic is one of two main languages spoken in Ethiopia, which is said to be one of the first people groups to accept Christianity. Ethiopia also has the oldest church in sub-Saharan Africa.

DEC
04



Joyeux Noël

(zhwah-yuh noh-el)

French

French is the official language of France. But did you know French is also the official language of more than 20 African countries? These countries are often grouped together under the name "Francophone Africa." Most are on the west coast of Africa, like the country called Côte d'Ivoire.

DEC
05



عيد ميلاد مجيد

(eed meelad meh-jeed)

Arabic

The majority of countries in the Middle East speak Arabic, including Egypt. Egyptian Christians are part of what's called the Coptic Orthodox Church. They are the only ones in Egypt who celebrate Christmas.

DEC
06



Giáng sinh vui vẻ

(zhahng seen vooy vey)
Vietnamese

The national dish of Vietnam is called phở. It's a soup made with broth, rice noodles and meat. What a great meal to enjoy on a cold winter evening as you count down to Christmas!

DEC
07



щасливого Різдва

(chess-lee-voh-rgoh rizdva)
Ukrainian

A poor widow lived in a small hut with her children. They couldn't afford to decorate their Christmas tree, but overnight, a spider covered it in cobwebs. When they opened the windows in the morning, they saw the cobwebs and thought they were beautiful. That's why today Ukrainian families put bejeweled spiders on their Christmas tree.

DEC
08



Selamat Hari Natal

(seh-lah-mat ha-ree nah-tahl)
Malay

Malay is the national language of Malaysia. But there are more than 130 indigenous languages spoken in Malaysia! Indigenous means it's native to the country and didn't come from anywhere else.

DEC
09



क्रिसमस की बधाई

(christmas kee shubh-kaa-ma-naa-en)
Hindi

Hindi is spoken in India. Nearly 80% of Indians follow the Hindu religion, so it's not common for Indians to celebrate Christmas. But if they did, they probably wouldn't eat beef on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Hindus believe cows are holy so they don't eat their meat and let them roam free, even in the city!

DEC
10



Sugeng Natal

(soo-gain nah-tahl)
Javanese

Indonesia, where Javanese is spoken, is made up of 13,466 islands! Javanese is spoken on the island of Java by the Javanese, the largest ethnic group in Indonesia.

DEC
11



Barka da Kirsimetikuma

(bar-kah dah keer-see-mah-tee-koo-mah)

Hausa

The Hausa language, spoken in Nigeria, is a tonal language. This means the pitch you use when talking determines the words you're saying. Try pronouncing Merry Christmas in Hausa.

DEC
12



メリークリスマス

(meh-ree koo-riss-mahss-su)

Japanese

Christmas isn't widely celebrated in Japan, but many Japanese traditionally eat at the popular fried chicken chain Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) on Christmas Eve. Why? Because in the 1970s visitors discovered that finding turkey in Japan was difficult. So they decided on a fried chicken Christmas dinner!

DEC
13



ਕ੍ਰਿਸਮਸ ਮੁਬਾਰਕ

(kriss-muhs moo-bah-rahk)

Punjabi

Punjabi is the most widely spoken language in Pakistan, even though the official languages of Pakistan are Urdu and English. Punjabi is also the name of Pakistan's largest people group.

DEC
14

Merry Christmas

(see diagram)

American Sign Language



Merry:
Move up and
off chest 2x.



Christmas:
"C" hand arches
from left to right.



Scan for
demonstration

Did you know there's a movie about Jesus for Deaf people made by the Deaf community? It was created by our friends at Deaf Missions. *JESUS: A Deaf Missions Film* was released on June 20, 2024.

DEC
15



Jesu Suoh Lungdamna

(jay-suh suh-oh loo-ng-dahm-na)

Zo

Roughly 65,000 people in the world speak Zo. These speakers are from the country of Myanmar. Zo was the 2,000th language that the *JESUS* film was translated into. Ten more days until Christmas!

DEC
16



С Рождеством

(s razh-dest-vom)

Russian

Russians celebrate Christmas on January 7. They call it Orthodox Christmas. Instead of Santa Claus, Russians have Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter, The Snow Maiden. They deliver gifts to children on New Year's Eve on a sleigh called a "troika" pulled by three horses.

DEC
17



Geyiny 'dalmaat yiesu

(geh-gin-ee dahl-maht yee-eh-soo kriss-toe)

Daasanach

Daasanach was the 2,000th language that the *JESUS* film was translated into. The Daasanach people group lives in Southwest Ethiopia. After watching the movie in their language, 132 Daasanach said they wanted to follow Jesus.

DEC
18



圣诞快乐

(sung daan kwai la)

Mandarin Chinese

Chinese, or Mandarin Chinese, is spoken in China. The Chinese language is the oldest written language still in use in the world. Did you try saying Merry Christmas in Chinese? Try it. It's fun!

DEC
19



Feliz Navidad

(feh-leees nah-vee-dahd)

Spanish

Today Spanish is spoken in 21 different countries—many in South America—but the language originated in Spain. Spanish sounds a lot like Italian and Portuguese because all of these languages evolved from Latin. They're called Romance languages.

DEC
20



کرسمس مبارک

(kriss-muhs moo-bah-rahk)

Urdu

Many families have a tradition to eat breakfast together on Christmas day. Christmas isn't widely celebrated in Pakistan, where Urdu is spoken. However, a very popular breakfast in Pakistan is Halwa Puri. Puri is a fried flatbread and halwa is a sweet paste made of sesame seeds, sugar syrup and egg whites.

DEC
21



Feliz Natal

(feh-leez nah-tahl)

Portuguese

Portuguese is spoken in Brazil and Portugal, although several other small countries also speak the language. In Brazil, Christmas Eve is a bigger day than Christmas day. Most families celebrate with a big dinner and exchange gifts at midnight!

DEC
22



Geseënde Kersfees

(heh-sehn-dah kers-fays)

Afrikaans

Ever heard of a Christmas barbeque? On Christmas day many South Africans that live in the city host a “braai” to celebrate. They cook their Christmas dinner on a grill outside on their balcony or backyard!

DEC
23



Buon Natale

(bwon nah-tah-leh)

Italian

In many countries, Santa Claus brings children gifts on Christmas day. In Italy, where Italian is spoken, La Befana, a friendly witch, gives well-behaved children gifts on January 6.

DEC
24



Frohe Weihnachten

(froh-uh vy-nahk-ten)

German

The tradition of decorating Christmas trees originated in Germany in the 1500s. Martin Luther, a very important figure in Christianity, was the first person to add lights to his tree. He saw the moon glowing outside during a walk and wanted to experience it at home too.

DEC
25



Merry Christmas

(meh-ree kriss-muhs)

English

Today we celebrate that Jesus, our saviour, was born. Pick your favorite language from the calendar and tell a friend or family member “Merry Christmas” in that language!