



## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. When is Boxing Day?
2. What is the main purpose of Boxing Day?
3. Do you participate in Boxing Day shopping?
4. What major event in recent history took place on Boxing Day?

## PRE-READING VOCABULARY TASK

Match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. parcel                      | a) refuses to go near something  |
| _____ 2. gift card                   | b) a pre-paid card; the recipient can use it to buy something from a certain store |
| _____ 3. servant                     | c) a person who works hard to make another person's life easier; often paid poorly |
| _____ 4. retail                      | d) a box that is wrapped so that you can't see what is inside                      |
| _____ 5. <i>won't step foot (in)</i> | e) to express sadness after a major loss   |
| _____ 6. holiday spirit              | f) a loving and generous feeling that is associated with Christmas time            |
| _____ 7. switch                      | g) to join with others around a central focal point                                |
| _____ 8. credit card                 | h) a card that allows you to buy something now and pay for it later                |
| _____ 9. gather around               | i) related to the selling of goods directly to the buyer                           |
| _____ 10. grieve                     | j) to change one thing or way for another  |

## Boxing Day



Even before all of the Christmas **parcels** are open, some people are already thinking about Boxing Day sales. Spending Christmas cash and using **gift cards** is the purpose of December 26th, isn't it? The holiday didn't start out this way. Boxing Day used to be about giving to the poor. Sometimes the gift came in a box. Other times, **servants** received a day off. These days, shoppers are lining up before dawn and **retail** workers are back in their uniforms.

Some people *won't step foot* in a shopping mall on Boxing Day. The parking is a nightmare and the **holiday spirit** is gone. Many have **switched** to online shopping. December 26th is one of the busiest days on the web for **credit card** companies.

Besides shopping, Boxing Day is a big day for sports. In many African countries, there are prize fighting contests. In Canada, most

hockey teams take to the ice. Europeans **gather around** their television sets for football and rugby matches.

For thousands of people around the world, Boxing Day will always be a day to **grieve**. The 2004 tsunami was one of the worst natural disasters in modern history. Approximately 230, 000 people lost their lives that Boxing Day.


**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. What three forms of payment are mentioned in the reading?
2. What did Boxing Day used to be like before shopping malls?
3. Why does the reading mention “the web”?
4. What sports are typically played on Boxing Day?
5. Why is December 26, 2004 a significant date in history?

**VOCABULARY REVIEW**
**A. Fill in the blanks with one of the words from the list below.**

1. I asked for \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas because I want to shop for what I need.
2. Traditionally, \_\_\_\_\_ were given gifts on Boxing Day.
3. If you are a \_\_\_\_\_ worker, you will probably have to work on Boxing Day.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ around the Christmas tree and opened the parcel.
5. I used to shop with a credit card. I’ve \_\_\_\_\_ to cash.

servants

gift cards

switched

gathered around

retail

**B. Unscramble the word to complete the sentence.**

1. I always lose my holiday \_\_\_\_\_ when I’m at the mall.
2. The world \_\_\_\_\_ for the victims of the 2004 tsunami.
3. I bought three gift cards with my \_\_\_\_\_.
4. My sister won’t \_\_\_\_\_ in a shopping center on December 26th.
5. The child wondered what was inside the Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.

1. tirpsi
2. edvrieg
3. rdcite rdac
4. pste ootf
5. lepacr

**CLASS OPINION**

1. Will Boxing Day ever go back to the way it was?
2. How did the December 2004 tsunami affect you?
3. Do you enjoy shopping on Boxing Day? Why or Why not?
4. How do our customer behaviors impact our societies?

**What is the difference between these uses of “used to”?**

- I am **used to** shopping on Boxing Day. The lines don’t bother me.
- I **used to** shop at the mall on Boxing Day. Now I shop online.
- The boxes we **used to** collect items for the poor are missing.

**Web 2.0 Optional Class Activity**

Decorate a large box.

Fill it up with items that you can donate to a worthy cause.

Work together to choose a charity or family to donate your Christmas Box to on Boxing Day. Write about your Christmas Box and send us an email. We’ll post your Christmas Box story on our blog. Please include a photo!

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## Teacher's Answer Key

### Pre-Reading Vocabulary Task:

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. i    5. a    6. f    7. j    8. h    9. g    10. e

### Comprehension Questions:

1. The three forms of payment that are mentioned in the reading are cash, gift cards, and credit cards.
2. Before shopping malls, Boxing Day used to be a holiday for servants and a time when people gave generously to the poor.
3. The reading mentions “the web” because many people shop online on Boxing Day.
4. Hockey, boxing, rugby and soccer are typically played on Boxing Day.
5. December 26, 2004 is a significant date in history because this is when this tsunami took place in the Indian Ocean.

### Vocabulary Review

#### A. Fill in the Blanks

1. gift cards
2. servants
3. retail
4. gathered around
5. switched

#### Used to

1. “be + used to” is an expression meaning “accustomed to”
2. “used to” is an expression to talk about something you did in the past; use “use to” (no “d”) with “did” only (“Did he use to...” or “I didn’t use to”)
3. past tense verb of “to use”

#### B. Unscramble

1. spirit
2. grieved
3. credit card
4. step foot

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