

E-LIVE tasks for virtual exchange consist of a sequence of subtasks organised in three phases: preparatory (pre-task), task performance (interaction) and post- task.



MY CHRISTMAS

TASK SUMMARY

Topic	Christmas celebration
Target group CEFR level	Secondary school students A1/B1
Summary of activities	In the first phase, learners will share their unique Christmas experiences by uploading visuals (pictures and videos) of their holiday celebrations to Padlet. This will create a global gallery where students can explore and appreciate diverse traditions from the learners participating in the exchange. They can then react to the visuals shared by their international peers, expressing what they find interesting, surprising, or inspiring about each other's customs. In the second phase, international groups will meet up in BBB (BigBlueButton) for videoconferences to discuss specificities, differences, similarities, and clarify any questions related to the shared Christmas experiences.
Learning objectives (intercultural, linguistic, technological and pedagogical)	Learners will: Language and Communication Objectives: • Describe their Christmas traditions clearly and coherently, using appropriate language and vocabulary. • React to their partner's description of Christmas celebrations in a respectful and engaged manner. • Ask relevant questions to gain a deeper understanding of their partner's cultural experiences. Intercultural Objectives: • Demonstrate awareness and respect for the cultural significance of Christmas traditions in both Spain and the Netherlands. • Compare and contrast their own cultural experiences with those of their partner, identifying similarities and differences. • Develop a greater understanding and appreciation for cultural diversity and respect for different traditions. • Communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds, adapting their communication style as needed. Digital Objectives: • Use Padlet effectively to share photos, videos, and collaborate with their partner.

TASK SUMMARY

	• Adhere to appropriate online etiquette and communication skills during the virtual exchange. • Share relevant information and resources related to Christmas traditions. • Work collaboratively with their partner to create a shared understanding of cultural differences and similarities.
Final product (expected outcome)	Visuals in Padlet and reactions Recordings BBB session Students reflection
Tool suggestion	Video communication room (BigBlueButton)
Has the task been tested?	Yes
Author(s)/institution(s)	Kristi Jauregi-Ondarra (Utrecht University, NL) in close collaboration with Lore García Benito and Nahiraki Saralegi (Antoniano, Spain) and Annabila (Lek en Linge, NL) and coached by Kristi Jauregi-Ondarra (Utrecht University, NL)

TASK PREPARATION	
Task elements	Description of pre-task activities
Preparing for the meeting with VE partner	The teachers prepare students for communicating with peers abroad using English both Spanish (A1/A2 and English B1). Linguistic and intercultural input is provided and awareness raising activities organised about approaching the international peer/s with respect, supporting each other, showing interest, providing positive feedback.
Familiarisation with task topic	Teacher's Role: ● Set expectations: Remind students that the goal of this activity is to foster a lively and respectful exchange about cultural differences and similarities, focusing on Christmas traditions. Emphasize that there is no right or wrong answer, and that the focus should be on sharing and learning from each other's perspectives. ● Provide guidance: Explain the two-phase structure of the activity: ○ <u>Phase 1: Visual Sharing</u>: Students will create and upload visuals (pictures or videos) of their Christmas celebrations to Padlet. Encourage them to consider the suggested discussion topics when creating their visuals. ○ <u>Phase 2: Group Discussion</u>: International groups will meet up in BBB (BigBlueButton) for videoconferences to discuss their shared Christmas experiences, using the visuals as a starting point for their conversations. Suggested Visual Topics: ● Family and friends: Photos of family gatherings, holiday meals, or gift exchanges. ● Decorations: Videos of decorating your home or Christmas trees. ● Celebrations: Pictures or videos of attending church services, watching Christmas parades, or participating in other holiday activities. ● Food: Photos of traditional Christmas dishes or holiday feasts. ● Gifts: Pictures of unwrapping presents or showing off special gifts. By focusing on these visual topics, students can capture the essence of their Christmas experiences and share them with their international peers.
Differentiation	If learners do not celebrate Christmas they may choose a celebration meaningful to them.

Familiarisation with tools	The teachers organise a tutorial about: - Working with Padlet, - Creating and editing videos, - Learning how to access BBB via Moodle, check sound and record the sessions.
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TASK PERFORMANCE (INTERACTION)

Task elements (steps of the interaction)	Description of activities
Interaction in videocommunication space (BBB)	In the second phase of the activity, international groups will meet up in BBB for videoconferences to discuss specificities, differences, similarities, and clarify any questions related to the shared Christmas experiences. Suggested Discussion Topics: • <u>Visual analysis</u>: Discuss the visuals shared on Padlet, focusing on the similarities and differences between the Christmas traditions depicted. • <u>Cultural significance</u>: Explore the cultural significance of various Christmas traditions, discussing the reasons behind specific customs or practices. • <u>Personal experiences</u>: Share personal stories and anecdotes related to Christmas celebrations, highlighting unique or memorable experiences. • <u>Cross-Cultural comparisons</u>: Identify similarities and differences between Christmas traditions in Spain and the Netherlands, discussing the reasons for these variations. • <u>Cultural exchange</u>: Explore ways to incorporate elements of different cultures into future Christmas celebrations.
Differentiation	If learners do not celebrate Christmas they may choose a celebration meaningful to them.

POST-TASK

Task elements	Description of post-task activities
In-class discussion	After the exchange, organize a class discussion where students can reflect on what they've learned and discuss how this experience challenged or confirmed their preconceived notions on Christmas celebrations. Objective: To encourage students to reflect on their experiences and learning from the virtual exchange. Activity: Students will create a personal reflection journal focusing

	on their experiences and insights gained from the virtual exchange (see also worksheet). Prompts: • <u>Cultural awareness:</u> How has your understanding of Christmas traditions in Spain and the Netherlands changed as a result of the exchange? • <u>Cross-Cultural communication:</u> What challenges or successes did you encounter in communicating with your international peers? • <u>Personal growth:</u> How has this experience helped you to become a more culturally aware and empathetic individual? • <u>Future goals:</u> What are your goals for future intercultural interactions? • <u>Lessons learned:</u> What important lessons have you learned about cultural diversity and respect?
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MY CHRISTMAS (Worksheet)



Your mission is to delve into the unique Christmas traditions of the Basque Country, Spain, and the Netherlands through an engaging virtual exchange. Here's your guide to making this experience both informative and enjoyable:

Preparation Before the Online Meeting:

Reflection:

1. Consider what you love most about the Christmas period.
2. Ponder on the special aspects of your Christmas celebrations, anticipating that your international partner may have different customs.
 - What would you like to share about your Christmas celebrations?
 - What elements would you like to visually showcase through pictures or short videos?

Curiosity:

3. Formulate questions about your partner's views and experiences of Christmas.

Topics to Explore:

- ☐ Dates (e.g., 5th, 6th, 24th, 25th, 26th of December, Sundays, December 31st...)
- ☐ Gift-giving traditions (e.g., Olentzero, Sinterklaas...)
- ☐ Typical foods for different occasions (December in general, Christmas, St. Nikolas' Day)
- ☐ Christmas tree, church rituals, songs, and other traditions.

Sharing Platform:

Compile the pictures and videos you've created during the Christmas period and share them on the collaborative platform with your international partners. Have a look at your partners' pictures and write a short reaction

Online Face-to-Face Encounter:

Bilingual Interaction:

E-LIVE task: My Christmas

- The initial 10 minutes will be conducted in Spanish.
- The remaining 20 minutes will switch to English.

Conversation Starters:

1. Discuss surprising elements or aspects needing clarification from the shared pictures and videos.
2. Compare and contrast your own experiences, noting similarities and differences in your partner's country.

Topics to Discuss:

3. Dates, gift-giving traditions, typical foods, festive decorations, and other cultural practices.

Analysis and Reflection:

4. Document Differences and Similarities in the provided table.

<u>Basque Country – Spain</u>	<u>The Netherlands</u>
<u>Differences</u>	<u>Differences</u>
<u>Similarities</u>	<u>Similarities</u>

Critical Evaluation:

5. Discuss your impressions of the discovered similarities and differences.
6. Reflect on whether any differences surprise you or if there's a particular difference you'd find interesting in your culture.

Creative Exercise: Designing a Unified Tradition

7. Envision a scenario where the Netherlands and Spain share the same December traditions.
8. Discuss and debate which tradition should be chosen and why, fostering compromise and understanding

Through this virtual exchange, we aim not only to explore Christmas traditions but also to build connections, promote cultural understanding, and celebrate the diversity that makes each of our traditions special. Enjoy the journey!

Post-Task Reflection Activity

Now that you've embarked on this fascinating exploration of Christmas traditions between the Basque Country, Spain, and the Netherlands, let's take a moment to reflect on the experience.

Personal Insights:

1. Reflect on what surprised you the most about your partner's Christmas traditions. Did you discover something unexpected or gain a new perspective?

Cultural Awareness:

2. Consider how this activity has contributed to your understanding of cultural diversity. How do diverse traditions enhance our global perspective?

Communication Skills:

3. Assess your ability to communicate effectively in both Spanish and English during the online face-to-face encounter. What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

Interconnectedness:

4. Explore the connections you found between your own culture and that of your partner. Did you identify shared values or traditions that fostered a sense of connection?

Building Bridges:

5. Share your thoughts on how virtual exchanges like this can contribute to building bridges between cultures. In what ways can these interactions promote mutual respect and appreciation?

Next Steps:

6. Discuss any lingering questions or areas you'd like to explore further. Are there aspects of your partner's culture that you'd like to learn more about?

Feel free to express your reflections through a written response, a short video, or any other creative means that resonate with you. This post-task reflection allows you to internalize your learnings, appreciate the richness of cultural diversity, and foster a spirit of global connectedness. Enjoy the process!

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