

Your Monthly EMI Newsletter

EMI English Medium Instruction

EMI Language Tip of the Month – The holiday season

To wrap up 2018 in the holiday spirit, we share some colourful language you may encounter at a Christmas or New Year's gathering:

1. Any **resolutions** for next year?

In other words: Do you plan to change any undesired habits or accomplish a particular goal? Typical answers include give up smoking, exercise more, or finish a dissertation 😊

2. I expect to get a lot of **coal in my stocking**

In other words: I don't expect to get any presents because I have not been 'good'.

3. He was being such a **Scrooge!**

In other words: To be stingy or mean. Scrooge was the main character in Charles Dickens novel *A Christmas Carol*.

4. She **lit up like a Christmas tree** when she heard the news

In other words: She was very happy to hear the news.

5. Those pens would make a great **stocking stuffer!**

In other words: The pens are small, simple gifts typically found in the stocking on Christmas morning.

Like always with language use, context and audience are key. Using these idioms in circles where Western concepts of Christmas and New Year's are not celebrated may lead to confusion. Still, we hope these expressions can spice up your holiday encounters.

The EMI team will be condensing the monthly newsletter into a quarterly newsletter. So be on the lookout for the next one in March 2019. We wish you all the best for the holiday season!

International classroom news

In our [July newsletter](#), we linked to reports on the upward surge of English-taught degree programs. Well, there are two sides to every coin. It seems [some countries are pumping the brakes on English-taught degree programs](#). The reasons for this are manifold but ultimately seem to be political. Will be interesting to see whether this trend spreads to other countries.

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