

The Compliments of the Season To You!

Expressing good will in English

Tis the season to be jolly, and to encourage others to be jolly too. How can we help our learners take part in all this good will?

Good wishes are a kind of **formula** (like the “How are you? Fine, thanks” formula).

There are a few guidelines for using the good will formulae:

1. The components – the Good Wish (GW) and the Response.

The Response

Spoken GWs	<i>Thanks!</i> <i>Thank you, and the same to you.</i> <i>Merry Christmas to you, too.</i> <i>And to you.</i> <i>And to you.</i>
Written GWs	<i>A return card or email</i>

The GW

This can relate to Christmas, the New Year or the long summer holiday, as these all fall around the same time in NZ.)

Merry Christmas! Happy Christmas! Happy New Year! (but not Merry Good Year)
Happy holiday Have a good break Have a good holiday!
All the best for Christmas All the best for a nice holiday

2. The timing

Spoken GWs come at the end of an interchange – they aren’t usually used as a greeting, or in the middle of a conversation. So they are a **signpost of ending a dialogue**.

Tom: Well, see you next year, mate. Merry Christmas, eh!

Fred: Thanks, same to you. Bye!

Written GWs should arrive in December, but before the 25th. Later suggests that the sender is badly organised or forgot about the recipient until a card arrived. Earlier indicates that the sender is “keen” which my children tell me is not a good image.

Written GWs require signing off, in much the same way as a letter.

Best wishes,.....

Regards,...

Love from....

Love and best wishes,....

Practise with your learner. Visit Chartwell or Centreplace and practise on Santa and his elves. And a very Merry Christmas to you all!