

Christmas Disasters

Oh No! You Shouldn't Have
Possible Solutions



Task: Look at the following Christmas mishaps, accidents, and things gone wrong. Work in pairs Student A and Student B. Tell your partner about these Christmas disasters as if they happened to you. You may embellish the stories creatively as you please. Your partner will then tell you what you should or what you shouldn't have done.

Speaking pattern:

- Student A: *My cat and dog were playing near the Christmas tree and knocked it over.*
- Student B: *Well, you shouldn't have let your pets play near the Christmas tree. You should have locked them in another room.*

Student A:

- 1 I tripped over some Christmas decoration on the staircase and fell down the stairs.
You shouldn't have put decoration on the staircase. You should have kept the staircase free from Christmas decoration.
- 2 I roasted the Turkey stuffing in rubber tray. The rubber melted and dripped onto the roasties. I had to bin our Christmas dinner and we had breadsticks with hummus instead.
You shouldn't have roasted the Turkey stuffing in a rubber tray. You should have used a metal tray.
- 3 Ouch! I stapled my finger with a staple gun while I was hanging up the Christmas lights.
You shouldn't have used a staple gun.
- 4 We bought a huge turkey. When we roasted it, it expanded and we had to take the door off the oven to get it out.
You should have bought a smaller turkey. You should have sliced it in the oven and taken it out bit by bit.
- 5 I got an electrical shock because of faulty wiring when I hung up the outdoor lights.
You should have checked the wiring first.
- 6 I was chatting in the kitchen with my brother while roasting the potatoes. I cremated them.
You shouldn't have been chatting while cooking. You should have set a timer.
- 7 I fell through a hole in the attic ceiling, which hadn't been fixed, while looking for the Christmas decoration.
You should have fixed the attic ceiling before Christmas!
- 8 I cut my finger while picking up the broken Christmas glass ornaments without wearing gloves.
You should have worn gloves or used a dustpan and brush.

Student B

- 1 I trimmed branches off the Christmas tree with a kitchen knife. It slipped and I cut my hand.
You shouldn't have trimmed the Christmas tree with a kitchen knife. You should have used a proper saw.
- 2 We had pre-cooked, wrapped and stored some of the Christmas dishes in the pantry. Our dog must have sneaked in, ripped open the wrapping and polished off most of the dishes.
You should have locked the pantry.
- 3 I burnt the wrapping paper in our fireplace in the lounge. It burnt so intensely that all our Christmas stockings above the fireplace were set on fire.
You shouldn't have burnt the wrapping paper. You should have recycled it or folded it to re-use it next year.
- 4 My mother cooked the turkey on Christmas Eve and let it out to cool. She had left a window open in the kitchen and there were 2 cats sitting either side of it happily eating away.
She shouldn't have left the kitchen window open.
- 5 Our outside lights started a fire because the extension cord was not waterproof.
You should have bought a waterproof extension cord.
- 6 I was making roast potatoes and because there were so many people in the kitchen distracting me I grabbed the washing up liquid instead of the oil.
You should have concentrated on your cooking. You shouldn't have looked before grabbing something .
- 7 I opened my Christmas presents with a knife and cut the present in half.
You shouldn't have used a kitchen knife to open your Christmas present.
- 8 I had a little bit too much mulled wine and later twisted my ankle while we were wildly dancing to 'Last Christmas'.
You shouldn't have drunk so much mulled wine. You should have played a different Christmas song. 😊