Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This month in your class you can introduce Christmas and the Festive season in your lessons. Ask your ALT to explain the meaning of Christmas to your students. Show students pictures of Christmas items such as candy canes, Christmas trees, mistletoe, wreaths and Santa Claus. For older students have a discussion on the differences between Christmas in Japan and Christmas in your ALT’s country.

Elementary school students will enjoy a fun game called pass the parcel. To play pass the parcel, wrap a small gift in layers and layers of newspaper. Between each layer place a picture flash card. Students should sit in a circle. Play music and have the students pass the parcel around. Every time the music stops the student holding the parcel can remove one layer. The student should look at the picture on the flashcard and call out the word. Continue the game until the last layer of wrapping has been removed. You can play this game with older students too. For older students place instructions such as “count to 100”, “jump up 15 times”, “spell your name”, “run around the classroom twice”, “shake hands with the person opposite you”, between the layers.

Enjoy your New Years holiday and see you in January 2005.
This month’s flashcards: Money, Nest, Orange, Pen

This month’s tip: You can attach pegs to the flashcards and play bowling with the students. All you need are five or more flashcards, pegs and a soft ball. (See Activity Bank September 2004 for this activity.)
How do you read this?

I don't understand.

How do you say _____ in English?

How do you spell that?

I don’t understand.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions if you don’t understand something. These are some useful questions you can ask your teacher when you are confused. It is also polite to say “excuse me” before asking a question.