

# A basic survival guide for the holidays

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It's that time of the year again. A time to sneak a peek at your presents, eat leftovers for a week, and avoid the mistletoe. It's the good and the bad of the holidays, and the following tips will help you survive until next year.

**The Surprise Factor:**

During the week before Christmas almost everyone snoops for their presents. When successful, they are shocked, overwhelmed, or sometimes disappointed.

The key to being able to find your presents next year is to look surprised this year. By doing this, your parents will continue to hide your presents in the same spot. Therefore, you will always know where they are. If you don't seem too enthused your parents could become suspicious and think that you peeked, and they will hide the presents in a different spot next year. Or they may not buy you anything next year. So play it off like you never expected it. If you receive a portable tape player and you wanted a portable cd player, just smile while you remember "receipt and return."

**Joy to the World:**

Now it's time for caroling. You probably agree it is pretty boring, plus you are usually cold, holding a candle that gives off as much



light as it does heat.

Last year, you were singing "Joy to the World" when suddenly you remembered an alternative version that you used to sing. With a warm smile, you began singing the lyrics to yourself: "Joy to the world, the preacher's dead. We barbecued his head."

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nately, you weren't singing to yourself, after all.

The only way to avoid this kind of embarrassment is to always bring your lyric book or just don't go.

**Ho, ho, the mistletoe:**

Most families have the traditional mistletoe hanging over the doorway. The younger generation just isn't too fly about that. There are many ways to avoid it or you can just get rid of it. All it takes is a piece of thread and a fake spider.

Simply tie the spider to the thread, then tie the thread to the mistletoe. Now who wants to smooch with a big hairy spider trying to cut in? You won't have to worry about being put on the spot.

The best part is the mistletoe will probably be pulled down in the rush to kill the spider.

**I hate mealloaf:**

Let's not forget the magical mouth watering Chris-

mas dinner. Almost everyone has those members of the family that always cook an extra dish or dessert that you are afraid to eat, but you can't hurt their feelings. Once again play it smart. Cut your food up into smaller portions, mix some peas with some corn. Hide other foods under your bread, or if it won't fit, cut or mash your food up. Make it look like you were starving. When you are done, place your napkin on your plate over the top of the remaining food that may smell, or move in some cases (and it may not be just the jell-o). Now watch and observe the rest of the family members. You may be amazed to see them doing it, also.

**Turkey hash, turkey soup...:**

The turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and gravy were all delicious on Christmas Day. Now it is the week after Christmas and you're still eating portions of that once delicious dinner. You can avoid this dreadful week by knowing the correct way to dispose of them!

Everyone hates a hair in their food! Most people are disgusted by the mere thought of it. If there is a female in the household you know that she will spend a great deal of her time primping. She will brushing her hair until it's just right. All you have to do is retrieve the hair from the brush. Next, mix it into the food for the finishing touches and no more leftovers! When Mom sees it, you'll probably even get to eat out that



Hawaiian- Mele Kalikimaka

Irish- Nollaig Shona Dhuit

German- Froehliche Weihnachten

Bohemian- Vesele Vanoce

Korean- Sung Tam Chuk Ha

Japanese- Shimen omedeto

Yiddish- Gute Vaynakhtn

Swedish- God Jul