

Speaking Parts

- Speaker 1 It's the most wonderful time of the year in the whole wide world!
- Speaker 2 In the high mountain villages of Peru, there's a brighter, brisker feeling than usual.
- Speaker 3 In the boat cities of Hong Kong, the sea is a little more blue.
- Speaker 4 In the deep fjords of Scandinavia, the mountains seem at last, like old friends.
- Speaker 5 The tiny German hamlets twinkle like the stars above them, and the Swiss students race home on skis as fast as Dutch children glide over the frozen canals on skates.
- Speaker 6 In the Americas, there are carolers singing and Santa appears on a snowmobile!
- Speaker 7 In Japan, there are delicate sculptures made of ice and hi-tech lights on evergreen trees.
- Speaker 8 In a tiny town in Asia, happy shepherds huddle around a humble shelter.
- Speaker 9 They look up and smile at a single star that smiles back at them and promises to continue to light up the world.
- Speaker 10 And in Mexico, a small boy with a big sombrero, grabs hold of a stick and wildly swings at La Piñata as his friends and family clap and cry...
- All Hurra, Hurra. Feliz Navidad!

* Play "La Piñata" *

Speaking Parts

- Speaker 1 In December, the Chinese begin their long preparation for the New Year.
- Speaker 2 They paint their doors and windowpanes usually bright red, and decorate them with paper cut-outs and poems with themes such as happiness, wealth, and longevity.
- Speaker 3 They start buying presents, as well as materials for new clothes and decorations.
- Speaker 4 They prepare special foods for the celebration.
- Speaker 5 And a huge cleanup gets underway.
- Speaker 6 They scrub their houses from top to bottom and sweep away any traces of bad luck.
- Speaker 7 In China, December is the start of a brand new year.
- Speaker 8 They dance with dragons!
- Speaker 9 They play the drum!
- Speaker 10 They shout Gung Hay Fat Choy!
- Speaker 11 Which means Happy New Year!
- Speaker 12 Come on everybody, say it with me! Gung Hay Fat Choy!
- Speaker 12 One more time!
- Speaker 12 Gung Hay Fat Choy!
- Speaker 12 Happy New Year to you, too!

* Play "Gung Hay Fat Choy" *

Speaking Parts

Speaker 1 I found it! I found it!

Speaker 2 What? What did you find?

Speaker 1 The pickle! The pickle! I found the pickle in the Christmas tree!

Speaker 2 Uh, excuse me. Pickles do not grow on trees. It must be a pinecone.

Speaker 1 Nein! Nein! It's a pickle! You see, in Germany it's an old tradition that young children hunt in the Tannenbaum, that's German for Christmas Tree, for a hidden pickle.

Speaker 2 Uh, why?

Speaker 1 Whoever finds it, gets a reward! So, I'll take my reward now?

Speaker 2 Here, have a hamburger.

Speaker 1 A HAMBURGER?!?

Speaker 2 It's German too, and something to put your pickle on, as long as you found it.

Speaker 1 Whatever! Anyway....

Together: Happy St. Nicholas Day!

* Play "Pickle in the Tannenbaum" *

Speaking Parts

- Speaker 1** It sure seems clear that December is a special time of the year all around the world.
- Speaker 2** And nowhere is it more special than right here in good old America!
- Speaker 3** That's right! One of the reasons it is SO special here is that we have people from all over the world living here and celebrating the traditions of their ancestors.
- Speaker 4** Like Hanukkah! Ramadan!
- Speaker 5** St. Nicholas Day! Las Posadas!
- Speaker 6** And we've also added a few traditions of our own.
- Speaker 7** Like Kwanzaa! Like Santa comin' down the chimney!
- Speaker 8** Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer pulling the sleigh. Frosty the snowman dancing around town.
- Speaker 9** Hanging our Christmas tree upside down in the den!
(shrugs sheepishly) I have a very peculiar family.
- Speaker 10** We carol 'til we're hoarse. We shop 'til we drop!
- Speaker 11** We do clever little musicals for all of our parents and friends, trying as hard as we possibly can to get them out of their grumpy attitudes and into the happy holiday spirit!

(All look at the audience and gasp)
- Speaker 12** There's nothing like December in America!

* Play "December in America" *