

Merry Quizmas!

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SOLUTIONS

Puzzle 1

Solving these requires familiarity with Christmas words and a little educated guesswork.

1. carol
2. Yule
3. Christmas
4. merry
5. Xmas
6. pudding
7. manger
8. Santa Claus
9. advent
10. stocking
11. jingle
12. holy
13. Noël
14. Nativity
15. sleigh

Puzzle 2

This puzzle requires pattern-recognition skills to work out which language is which, a little geographical knowledge, and some common sense to deduce the sentence: **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

1. Swedish
2. Dutch
3. Frisian
4. Danish

Solving this problem is all about geography and distance. The Faroe Islands are geographically closer to Scandinavia than they are to the Netherlands, and are administratively part of Denmark, so the language that is most similar to Danish/Swedish is likely to be Faroese. Afrikaans evolved from Dutch over the last 300 years, but it is considered a different language, whereas West Flemish is a dialect of Dutch spoken in Belgium. The language in **a** looks more different from Dutch than the language in **b**, so it's a good bet that **a** is Afrikaans.

- a. Afrikaans
- b. West Flemish
- c. Faroese