



Coping with the Holidays Checklist

Check what you would traditionally do with a (T) and then check with a (W) what you want to do this year. Share this with your family or have them do one of their own and compare notes.

Christmas Cards

- Mail as usual
- Shorten your list
- Include a "Christmas letter"
- Elect to skip this year

Decorations

- Decorate as usual
- Modify your decorations
- Ask for help
- Let others do it
- Make changes, such as an artificial tree instead of a real one
- Have a special decoration for your loved one
- Eliminate the tree or other decorations

Shopping

- Shop as usual
- Give cash
- Shop through catalogues
- Ask for help
- Shop early
- Make your gifts
- Give baked goods
- Shop with a friend
- Ask for help wrapping gifts
- Do not exchange gifts now but perhaps later
- Make a list of gifts you want before you go out

Christmas Music

- Enjoy as usual
- Avoid turning the radio on
- Shop early before stores have Christmas music on
- Listen to it, have a good cry and allow yourself to feel sad

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Traditions

- Keep the old traditions
- Attend holiday parties
- Don't attend holiday parties
- Go to an entirely new place
- Bake the usual holiday foods
- Buy the usual holiday foods
- Bake but modify what you would usually do
- Go to the religious services
- Do not attend religious services
- Attend the religious service but at a different time
- Attend a totally different church
- Spend quiet time alone
- Visit the cemetery
- Open gifts on Christmas eve
- Open gifts on Christmas day

Christmas Dinner

- Prepare as usual
- Go out for dinner
- Invite friends over
- Eat alone
- Change time of dinner
- Change routine of dinner, such as, this year do a buffet
- Change location of dinner, eat in a different room
- Ask for help

Post Christmas and New Year's Day

- Spend as usual
- Remove the Christmas decorations early
- Go out of town
- Avoid New Year's parties
- Attend a New Year's party
- Have a New Year's party
- Spend time with only a few friends
- Write in your journal your hopes for the new year
- Go to a movie
- Go to bed early

