ADVENT CALENDAR (vocabulary)

Level: any
Young learners

Advent calendars are a popular way to count down the days until Christmas. The calendar contains 24 numbered windows. Each day children open a new window to see the picture behind it. Modern calendars might contain sweets. You can use the idea of an advent calendar to introduce vocabulary.

1. Decide on 24 words you want students to learn or to revise. Ideally, use pictures to represent the words.
2. Create a large advent calendar to put on the wall. Behind each window, put one of the vocabulary pictures.
3. Create a routine in class. Each day, ask one child to come up and open one of the windows. This will be your word of the day.

ALTERNATE IDEA

Any age or level
Get the students to create the advent calendar

1. Create a large Christmas tree shape on the wall – large enough to stick 25 envelopes on it.
2. Depending on the level, ask each student to write a sentence or short paragraph describing ...
   - the best gift they’ve received or given, or
   - a gift they would like to receive, or
   - a holiday wish, or
   - their favourite thing about Christmas.
3. Put each student’s writing into an envelope. Seal it and number the front. Stick it to the advent calendar. If there are more than 25 students, put two in some of the envelopes.
4. Each day, ask a student to come and open one of the envelopes. Read it to the class.

The students will enjoy the anticipation of seeing whose writing is next!