

## **All we want for Christmas: not cheap aftershave and Mariah Carey**

- **Mariah Carey, Tom Jones & Wham! voted most annoying to listen to at work**
  - **57% of people don't play Christmas songs in their workplace**
  - **Socks, underwear, and toiletries named the worst Secret Santa gifts you can give**
    - **7 out of 10 say you shouldn't decorate before December**

Every festive film fan knows that the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. But, according to the latest research from reed.co.uk, that sentiment doesn't always ring true when it comes to the workplace – especially if what you're singing is Mariah Carey.

The survey of over 1,000 UK workers reveals that Mariah Carey's hit 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' is the most annoying song to be subjected to during office hours.

Other irritating songs on the office playlist include 'Baby It's Cold Outside' and 'Last Christmas' by Wham!.

'Fairytale Of New York' was voted the nation's favourite festive hit - despite also appearing in the top five worst - and one in three UK workers admitted they don't like listening to festive hits in the office at all.

**Grace Donnelly, spokesperson for reed.co.uk, said:**

“As we spend a large proportion of our daily lives at work, it's no wonder we might want to bring some festive cheer into the office when the holidays roll around. But, as our research has shown, the festivities can be a source of irritation for some, with Christmas songs a common culprit.

Depending on your workplace, a shared Spotify playlist that everyone can contribute to is a great way to overcome disputes. Or if there's really no way to overcome differences among colleagues, then it's best to play it safe with headphones."

It's not just songs that talk to our inner Scrooge. Over 70% of us said that any decorations put up before December 1st would make us lose our holiday cheer.

And aside from time away from our families, 31% called office Scrooges the worst part of working over the Christmas break, followed by the Christmas rush (23%) and constantly having to listen to Christmas music (11%).

But it isn't all doom and gloom. Although more than half us don't do Secret Santa, a staggering 81% enjoyed taking part - no matter how questionable the gifts are.

The presents most likely to make you wish you got gift vouchers instead include socks, underwear and toiletries. Re-gifting was also voted as one of the worst Secret Santa surprises.

Some people clearly step up to the challenge creatively, however. A few of the more unique gifts included everything from a mushroom growing kit and a single lemon, to a worm farm and wrapped-up wrapping paper.

One poor worker even got a book on how to talk to the opposite sex. Something which, unfortunately, they were keen to stress didn't work.

Next year, maybe stick to a novelty mug...

Here's a rundown of the worst (and best) parts of working over Christmas:

### **Top 5 worst Christmas songs to listen to at work**

1. All I Want For Christmas Is You
2. Baby It's Cold Outside
3. Last Christmas
4. I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day
5. Fairytale Of New York

### **The 5 most annoying things about working over Christmas**

1. Office Scrooge
2. The Christmas rush
3. Other (e.g. time spent away from loved ones)
4. Constantly listening to Christmas music
5. Terrible Christmas jumpers

### **The best time to decorate**

1. December 1st (38%)
2. A few weeks before Christmas (37%)
3. End of November (14%)
4. Never (8%)
5. Straight after Halloween (3%)

**- ENDS -**

#### **Notes to editors:**

Survey of 1,041 jobseekers from reed.co.uk database

#### **For further information please contact:**

James Clench

Tel: 020 7440 0366

Email: [reed@pha-media.com](mailto:reed@pha-media.com)

Grace Donnelly

Tel: 020 7067 4582

Email: [grace.donnelly@reedonline.co.uk](mailto:grace.donnelly@reedonline.co.uk)

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