

**carol**

1. [ˈkærəl] *n*
  1. весёлая песня
  2. гимн (*обыкн.* рождественский), хорал, рождественское песнопение  
carol service - рождественское богослужение с гимнами
2. [ˈkærəl] *v*
  1. петь весёлую песню
  2. воспевать, славить

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**carol**

**carol** [carol carols carolled caroled carolling caroling] **noun, verb** BrE [ˈkærəl]

<sup>ˈ</sup> *NAmE* [ˈkærəl]

**noun** (also **Christmas 'carol**)

a Christian religious song sung at Christmas

- a carol service (= a church ceremony in which people sing ↑carols )

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **carole** (noun), **caroler** (verb), of unknown origin.

Culture:

**carols and carol singing**

Carols are traditional songs that are sung just before ↑Christmas. Many of them celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Carols were first sung in the 14th century. They were popular songs with a lively tune, and contained references to the celebrations and feeling of **goodwill** associated with Christmas, as well as to Christ's birth. One of the oldest printed carols, **dating** from 1521, is the Boar's Head Carol, which was sung in Queen's College, ↑Oxford as Christmas lunch was carried in. Other traditional carols that are thought to have **originated** at this time include ↑God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen and ↑While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night.

In England during the 16th century, the **Puritans** tried to stop people singing carols, but the words continued to be **handed down** from one **generation** to the next. In the 19th century many of these carols were collected and printed. Some tunes were taken from ↑folk songs, others were specially written. Many of the most popular carols heard today date from this time. They include ↑O Come, All Ye Faithful, ↑Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, ↑Good King Wenceslas, ↑Away in a Manger and ↑O Little Town of Bethlehem.

Traditional carols are very popular in Britain and America, but children also like more modern songs, such as ↑Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer, about how a **reindeer's** bright red nose lights the way for ↑Santa Claus to take toys to children during a storm, and Frosty the Snowman, which tells the story of a figure made of snow who comes to life.

In the 19th century groups of **carol singers**, called **waits**, used to gather in the streets to play and sing for local people, who thanked them by offering drinks or **mince pies** (= small round pies containing dried fruit, apples and sugar). This custom became known as **wassailing** and still continues in Britain, with people meeting to sing carols in most town and village centres. Any money that is collected is given to charity. Some singers walk from street to street, singing carols outside each house. In the US **door-to-door** carol singing is not common, except in a few small communities. Families sing carols when they decorate the Christmas tree.

Carols are also sung in churches and, in Britain, in schools, in special Christmas services. One of the most famous **carol services** is the ↑Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is performed at ↑King's College, Cambridge, and broadcast on ↑BBC radio on Christmas Eve.

**verb** (-ll-, US -l-) **intransitive, transitive ~ (sth) | + speech**

to sing sth in a cheerful way

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	carol
	BrE / ˈkærəl/
	NAmE / ˈkærəl/
he / she / it	carols
	BrE / ˈkærəlz/
	NAmE / ˈkærəlz/
past simple, past participle	carolled (US) caroled
	BrE / ˈkærəld/
	NAmE / ˈkærəld/
-ing form	carolling (US) caroling
	BrE / ˈkærəlɪŋ/
	NAmE / ˈkærəlɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **carole** (noun), **caroler** (verb), of unknown origin.

Example Bank:

- 'So good of you to join us!' he carolled merrily.
- They carolled loud and long.

See also: ↑Christmas carol

**carol**

I. **car**<sup>1</sup> /'kærəl/ *BrE* <sup>1</sup> *AmE* <sup>1</sup> (also **Christmas carol**) *noun* [countable]

[**Date:** 1500-1600; **Origin:** carol 'circular dance with singing' (13-17 centuries), from Old French carole, probably from Late Latin choraula 'song for a group of singers', from Greek, from choros (⇒ ↑**chorus**<sup>1</sup>) + aulein 'to play a , ↑**reed**(2) instrument']  
a traditional Christmas song

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**THESAURUS**■ **types of song**

- **national anthem** the official song of a country, which is sung or played on public occasions: Before the match, everyone stood up to sing the national anthem.
- **hymn** /hɪm/ a religious song that is sung in a church: What hymns did you choose for your wedding? | At funerals people often sing the hymn 'Abide with Me'.
- **carol** a traditional Christmas song: We went around the houses, singing carols.
- **folk song** a traditional song from a particular area: an old Mexican folk song
- **ballad** a long folk song which tells a story: a traditional ballad about a man who is dreaming of his home in Ireland
- **lullaby** a slow quiet song sung to children to make them go to sleep: She sat by the child's bed, softly singing a lullaby.

II. **carol**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>1</sup> *AmE* <sup>1</sup> *verb* (past tense and past participle **carolled**, present participle **carolling** *British English*, **caroled**, **caroling** *American English*) [intransitive and transitive] *literary*

to sing or say something in a happy way:

▪ 'Goodbye,' carolled Boris happily.

**carol**

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1653**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **8876**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **3k** CAROL <sup>4708</sup>

carol 4183

carols 384

caroled 7

caroling 134

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1316 **8627**<sup>3783</sup> *np1*

264 **38487**<sup>360</sup> *nn1*

38 **122027**<sup>40</sup> *vv0*