

The December 2025 Issue

What is in this issue:

The Art of Ugly Christmas Sweaters



The Art of Ugly Christmas Sweaters

Sweater Weather

Have you ever heard of the phrase “**sweater** weather”? It is a cute saying for when the colder **weather** comes. It means that it is the perfect time to wear a cozy **cable-knit** sweater! For the U.K., Canada, and most parts of the U.S.A., that is fall and wintertime. Remember autumn or fall is September, October, and November. Winter is December, January, and February. So, since it is now December 2025, we are right in the middle of sweater weather!

What Is That?!



Please look at this... **unique**... sweater. It is certainly special, isn't it? Do YOU like it? How would you **describe** it? Maybe: cute? **Ugly**? Scary? Bright? Red? **Strange**? Christmas-y? Grandma-ish? **Childish**? Fun? **Cozy**? I think it's kind of magical that one sweater can be both **grandma-ish** (お婆ちゃんっぽい) and childish (子供っぽい) at the same time when those are **opposites**?!

Ugly Christmas Sweater Culture

It is called an “ugly Christmas sweater.” In the U.K. they say, “ugly Christmas **jumper**.” Maybe the best way to describe this style is: so-lame-it's-cool (ダサカッコいい), ugly-cute (きもかわいい), super tacky (ド派手), or **kitschy** (キッチュ)!



Various **motifs** are popular for sweater designs! For example, **secular** Christmas **symbols** like Santa Claus, **reindeer**, Christmas trees, candy canes, presents, **gingerbread** men, candy, **nutcrackers**, etc.

Seasonal winter **themes** like **snowflakes**, snowmen, ice skating, evergreens, **wreathes**, winter flowers, **fluffy** animals like bears, etc. are nice too.

Pop culture **references** pop up more and more these days. Famous characters from Disney like Mickey or Pluto, childhood **cartoon** characters like SpongeBob or Elmo, or classic **brand** characters like the Pillsbury Doughboy are common. **Iconic** characters from **beloved** Christmas movies are also easy to spot. If you ever want American Christmas movie & music recommendations, please come talk to me, Sheila!



Festive Fashion History



The 1950s

In the 1950s, people started putting simple Christmas motifs on their sweaters for fashion. These were called "Jingle Bell Sweaters."



The 1980s

In the 1980s, the sweaters became more popular in holiday movies as strange but **charming**. They also got brighter and bolder! What a wild time!

The 1990s

In the 1990s, the **handmade** sweaters with sweet holiday patterns were too **uncool** and grandma-ish. They were said to be "very **unfashionable!**" (I think grandmothers are the best though- I miss my Nana and her special sweaters a lot, especially at Christmastime.)





The 2000s & 2010s

In the 2000s to the 2010s, the sweaters became so uncool that they turned cool again! They were in more movies and even in some **designer** collections like Stella McCartney and Givenchy. They became very **nostalgic**.

The 2020s

Nowadays, these sweaters are often seen on **celebrities** in normal life or at holiday performances. A big talk show host and **comedian** in the U.S.A. named Jimmy Fallon has even been doing a segment called “12 Days of Christmas Sweaters” for about 12 years now! They are jokes in holiday TV specials and basically their own characters in holiday movies now.



Ugly Sweater Parties

Many families wear matching ugly Christmas sweaters for fun for family holiday **greeting cards**. Friends wear them for holiday party **jokes**. Workers wear them for **cheerful** holiday office parties. However, the first-ever “Ugly Sweater Party” was in Vancouver, Canada in 2002. It was the first time the whole point of the party was the funny sweaters! Often there is even a **contest** where the person with the **craziest** sweater gets a **prize**! These events are common in Canada, the U.K., and in the U.S.A. but I hear they are also known in Australia and New Zealand. Yet, they are not very popular down there because Christmas is in summer, so it is too hot. However, regardless, people do not only pull these out of their **closets** for a quick party. The sweaters have become popular to wear all season long.

Sheila's Sweaters & Advice

I, Sheila, LOVE ugly Christmas sweaters! Christmastime is my favorite time of year. I think these **silly** sweaters are one of the best ways to get into the **magical** spirit of the season. Here are just a few examples from my collection.



However, if you are interested in ugly Christmas sweaters, please be careful! Please do NOT buy a **fast fashion** sweater with a strange **AI** design. Those have suddenly appeared everywhere online. These “AI slop” sweaters are bad for many reasons. First, human **artists** do NOT get the job of designing the sweaters. Second, the **synthetic** materials are NOT good for the **environment**. And third, the clothing workers do NOT **earn** enough money making the sweaters. I **recommend** you either buy a **vintage** handmade sweater, a modern sweater from a **real-life** store or brand you know, or.... make your own sweater!

Keika Ugly Sweater Style?!

Here are some pictures of ugly Christmas sweaters at Keika Girls' School with Pepper-kun!

Keika Girls' English Club Ugly Christmas Sweater Party 2019



京華女子国際交流部のア
グリークリスマスセー
ターパーティー2019

The next page has baby ugly Christmas sweaters from our **current** English Club junior high school students in 2025. Aren't they so **clever** and unique? If you want to try doing these **arts & crafts**, then please come check out the Keika Lounge Christmas 2025 Display! You can use our art supplies to design and stick up your little sweater! Please write your name and class on the back so we can return it to you later. There will also be some other posters up with some other Christmas information. Please check it out! <3

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



キッチュ!
KITSCHY!



作りましょう!
LET'S MAKE
ONE!

ダサかっこいい!
SO-LAME-IT'S-COOL!



きもかわいい!
UGLY-CUTE!



ド派手
SUPER TACKY!

Ugly Christmas Sweaters

KEIKA LOUNGE CHRISTMAS 2025

アグリー・クリスマス・セーター

