Dottie's Holiday Planner

Christmas, organised by a pig with priorities

A free Hay-List printable · 12 pages · lists, menus and one firm boundary



Plan the gifts. Plan the food. Mostly the food.



Hello, you. Sit down. Have something warm.

Every December the same thing happens. Somebody forgets the cranberry sauce, somebody buys the same scarf for two aunts, and somebody (Turbo) eats the gingerbread roof before the guests arrive.

So I made a planner. It will not make your relatives easier. It will make sure there is enough food, which solves most things.

Print the pages you need. Skip the ones you don't. Nobody is marking this.

Dottie

Inside: December countdown · gift list · Christmas budget · cards and guests · menu plan · shopping list · baking schedule · Christmas Day timeline · holiday boundaries

December Countdown

One box a day. Write in the plan, the party or the pudding.



1 Start. Gently.	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
6 Taste something.	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
11	**12** Halfway. Cookie.	**13**	**14**	**15**
16	**17**	**18** Wrap. Or delegate.	**19**	**20**
21	**22**	**23**	**24** Everything in the oven.	**25** Eat. Sit. Repeat.

Dottie says: If a day goes wrong, cross it out and have a biscuit. The countdown still counts.

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Gift List

Who gets what, and whether it's actually wrapped yet.



Who	Gift idea	Budget	Bought	Wrapped
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

Dottie says: When in doubt, give food. Nobody has ever returned a tin of cookies.

Christmas Budget

Write the number down before the shops talk you out of it.



Category	Planned	Spent	Difference
Gifts			
Food and drink			
Baking supplies			
Decorations			
Cards and postage			
Wrapping			
Travel			
Outfits			
Parties and outings			
Charity			
Total			

Dottie says: The food line is not where we save money. Move along.

Cards & Guests

Who gets a card, who is coming, and who needs the good chair.



Name	Card sent	Coming	Eats / doesn't eat	Notes
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		
	☐	☐		

Dottie says: Ask about allergies now. Finding out at the table is a different kind of party.

Menu Plan

Three days of eating, written down so nothing gets forgotten.



Christmas Eve

Breakfast

Main meal

Dessert

Snacks and drinks

Christmas Day

Breakfast

Main meal

Dessert

Snacks and drinks

The day after

Breakfast

Main meal

Dessert

Snacks and drinks

Dottie says: Plan one dish that is only for you. Call it quality control.

Shopping List

Sorted by aisle, so you only walk past the chocolate twice.



Fresh fruit and veg

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Dairy and eggs

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Meat, fish or the alternative

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Baking shelf

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Pantry and tins

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Drinks

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Treats and snacks

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Everything else

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Dottie says: Buy the butter early. Everyone else has the same idea on the 23rd.

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Baking Schedule

What gets baked, when, and who it's supposedly for.



What	Bake on	For	How many	Done
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

Dottie says: Always bake one tray more than the recipe says. Trays go missing. I have no further comment.

Christmas Day Timeline

Work backwards from when you want to eat.



Time	What happens	Who does it	Done
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐

Dottie says: Put “sit down” on the list. If it isn’t written, it won’t happen.

Holiday Boundaries

A planner page for the things you are not doing this year.



Not doing this year

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Absolutely doing this year

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

Things I can say no to

My one quiet hour is on

Dottie says: “No, thank you” is a complete sentence. So is “more gravy, please”.

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More from Dottie's kitchen





If the planner helped, the recipes will too. Dottie has written two little books, and she stands by every calorie.

Dottie's Escape Food

12 unapologetic comfort recipes

Dottie's Smoothie Boundaries

14 blender recipes with zero rules

Christmas on the Farm

Printable gift tags, advent cards and colouring pages

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