

# THANKSGIVING

<http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/11/thanksgiving.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also called Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. It used to be a religious holiday to give thanks to God. There are two versions of the origins of this holiday. One is thanks for the early settlers arriving in America safely. On December the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a promise that the day of their arrival should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second version is the thanks given to Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to catch eels and grow corn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt made Thanksgiving a federal holiday.

The main event of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. This is usually accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, fall vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is the most commonly eaten dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest times of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend vacation for most schools and colleges, and many businesses and government workers get three or four days off. Thanksgiving is also the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to begin. Once Thanksgiving finishes, stores fill their shelves with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be a turkey.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. a very American     | a. promise     |
| 2. the fourth Thursday | b. to God      |
| 3. to give thanks      | c. holiday     |
| 4. made a              | d. corn        |
| 5. how to              | e. in November |
| 6. grow                | f. catch eels  |

### Paragraph 2

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The main           | a. eaten dessert   |
| 2. accompanied with   | b. days off        |
| 3. the most commonly  | c. times           |
| 4. one of the busiest | d. event           |
| 5. get three or four  | e. shelves         |
| 6. stores fill their  | f. mashed potatoes |

**LISTENING GAP FILL**

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. \_\_\_\_\_  
Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November  
every year. \_\_\_\_\_ religious holiday to give thanks to  
God. There are two \_\_\_\_\_ origins of this holiday. One is  
thanks for the early settlers arriving in America safely. On December  
the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived \_\_\_\_\_  
Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a promise that the  
\_\_\_\_\_ should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The  
second version is \_\_\_\_\_ to Native Americans for  
teaching the pilgrims how to catch eels and grow corn in Plymouth,  
Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt made Thanksgiving a  
federal holiday.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is  
traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. \_\_\_\_\_  
accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, fall vegetables,  
cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is \_\_\_\_\_ eaten  
dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is \_\_\_\_\_  
times of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend  
vacation for most schools and colleges, and many businesses and  
government workers get three \_\_\_\_\_. Thanksgiving is  
also the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to begin. Once  
Thanksgiving finishes, stores fill their shelves with Christmas goods. It  
is also a \_\_\_\_\_ turkey.

## WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. It \_\_\_\_\_ to be a religious holiday to give thanks to God. There are two \_\_\_\_\_ of the origins of this holiday. One is thanks for the \_\_\_\_\_ settlers arriving in America \_\_\_\_\_. On December the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a \_\_\_\_\_ that the day of their arrival should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second version is the thanks given to Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to \_\_\_\_\_ eels and grow \_\_\_\_\_ in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt made Thanksgiving a federal holiday.

*promise*  
*early*  
*called*  
*corn*  
*safely*  
*used*  
*catch*  
*versions*

The main \_\_\_\_\_ of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. This is \_\_\_\_\_ accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, fall vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is the most \_\_\_\_\_ eaten dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ times of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend \_\_\_\_\_ for most schools and colleges, and many businesses and government workers get three or four days off. Thanksgiving is also the unofficial \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas preparations to begin. Once Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_, stores fill their \_\_\_\_\_ with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be a turkey.

*commonly*  
*signal*  
*busiest*  
*event*  
*shelves*  
*vacation*  
*usually*  
*finishes*

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also *calling / called* Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. It *used to / used* be a religious holiday to give thanks to God. There are two versions of the *original / origins* of this holiday. One is thanks for the early settlers arriving in America *safely / safe*. On December the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group *made / did* a promise that the day of *their / there* arrival should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second *version / vision* is the thanks given to Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to catch eels and grow corn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt *made / gave* Thanksgiving a federal holiday.

The main *eventful / event* of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. This is *usually / usual* accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, *fell / fall* vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is the most commonly *eaten / eating* dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest times of the year *from / for* traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend vacation for most schools and colleges, and many businesses and government workers get three or four days *over / off*. Thanksgiving is also the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to *beginning / begin*. Once Thanksgiving finishes, stores fill their shelves with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be *a / in* turkey.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. It used to be a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ holiday to give thanks to God. There are two versions of the origins of this holiday. One is thanks for the early (3) \_\_\_\_\_ arriving in America safely. On December the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a promise that the day of their (4) \_\_\_\_\_ should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second version is the thanks given to Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ eels and grow corn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving a federal holiday.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ event of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. This is usually accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is the most commonly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest times of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend vacation for most schools and colleges, and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ businesses and government workers get three or four days off. Thanksgiving is also the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Once Thanksgiving finishes, stores fill their (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be a turkey.

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |               |                 |                |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) called    | (b) calling   | (c) calls       | (d) call       |
| 2.  | (a) religion  | (b) religious | (c) religiously | (d) religions  |
| 3.  | (a) settlers  | (b) settles   | (c) settled     | (d) settlement |
| 4.  | (a) arrives   | (b) arrived   | (c) arrival     | (d) arrival    |
| 5.  | (a) caught    | (b) catches   | (c) catch       | (d) catching   |
| 6.  | (a) took      | (b) made      | (c) did         | (d) had        |
| 7.  | (a) main      | (b) mainly    | (c) mainline    | (d) mains      |
| 8.  | (a) fell      | (b) falling   | (c) fall        | (d) fallen     |
| 9.  | (a) eating    | (b) eats      | (c) ate         | (d) eaten      |
| 10. | (a) most      | (b) many      | (c) much        | (d) more       |
| 11. | (a) beginning | (b) begins    | (c) begin       | (d) began      |
| 12. | (a) elves     | (b) delves    | (c) halves      | (d) shelves    |

# SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

## Paragraph 1

1. the uhftro Thursday in November
2. a sliiuroge holiday
3. the ngoirsi of this holiday
4. arriving in America ysfeal
5. made a oepism
6. how to hactc eels

## Paragraph 2

7. The main tenve
8. sweet pstoaeot
9. the most moynomcl eaten dessert
10. weekend aancotvi
11. unofficial ilnsga
12. fill their eshsevl



## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to catch eels and grow
- ( ) of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend vacation for most schools and
- ( **1** ) Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also called Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the
- ( ) The main event of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted
- ( ) fourth Thursday in November every year. It used to be a religious holiday to give thanks to God. There are two versions
- ( ) 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a promise that the day
- ( ) turkey. This is usually accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, fall vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin
- ( ) pie is the most commonly eaten dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest times
- ( ) colleges, and many businesses and government workers get three or four days off. Thanksgiving is also
- ( ) corn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt made Thanksgiving a federal holiday.
- ( ) the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to begin. Once Thanksgiving
- ( ) finishes, stores fill their shelves with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be a turkey.
- ( ) of the origins of this holiday. One is thanks for the early settlers arriving in America safely. On December the 4th,
- ( ) of their arrival should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second version is the thanks given to

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. American is very holiday Thanksgiving a.

---

2. a be to used It holiday religious.

---

3. of origins the of Versions holiday this.

---

4. The given Native thanks to Americans.

---

5. to How corn grow and eels catch.

---

6. traditional baked turkey is have roasted It to or.

---

7. potatoes mashed with accompanied usually is This.

---

8. the most Pumpkin commonly pie eaten is dessert.

---

9. get off three or Government four workers days.

---

10. Stores goods Christmas with shelves their fill.

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE THANKSGIVING SURVEY

Write five questions about Thanksgiving in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Thanksgiving. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Thanksgiving. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about Thanksgiving. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.