

Thanksgiving

| 30 min



Category: ✓ General English

Topic: ✓ American Culture

Media: ✓ Text

Level: ✓ A2-B1
Elementary/
Intermediate

Grammar: ✓ Prepositions

Learning Focus: ✓ Grammar,
Speaking,
Vocabulary



Activity 1



5 min

Warm-Up Discussion and Vocabulary

VOCABULARY, SPEAKING

First, discuss the Thanksgiving holiday with the students. Explain to them that Thanksgiving is an important American holiday in which families gather for a large, traditional meal and express gratitude for the things they have and the people in their lives. Ask the student(s) the questions below. Next, have them complete task 1. Discuss the answers.

- What do you know about the American holiday Thanksgiving?
- Have you celebrated Thanksgiving? How did you celebrate it?
- When and why is the holiday celebrated?
- Do you know of any dishes that are traditionally served at Thanksgiving?
- Does your country have a holiday that is similar to Thanksgiving? What is it and how do you celebrate it?





Task 1

Can you identify these traditional Thanksgiving dishes? Match the words from the box with the pictures. Next, answer the question.

gravy / turkey / stuffing / mashed potatoes / cranberry / rolls / sweet potatoes / corn



1. _____ *turkey* _____



2. _____ *stuffing* _____



3. _____ *mashed potatoes* _____



4. _____ *gravy* _____



5. _____ *sweet potatoes* _____



6. _____ *corn* _____



7. _____ *rolls* _____



8. _____ *cranberry* _____

Do you know of other traditional Thanksgiving dishes that are not shown here?

_____ *student's idea(s)* _____



Activity 2



5 min

Thanksgiving Customs
and Traditions Explanation

VOCABULARY

Ask the student(s) to complete task 2. Check and discuss the answers.



Task 2

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

Thanksgiving / Black Friday / meal / travel / family and friends / grateful

The first __ *Thanksgiving* __ was in 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast together in present-day Massachusetts. While the holiday originally held religious significance, today the holiday centers on cooking a large __ *meal* __ and celebrating with __ *family and friends* __. The fourth Thursday of every November is a time when Americans get together to give thanks to the people and things they are __ *grateful* __ for. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the biggest __ *travel* __ day of the year in the country, as Americans drive and fly to go meet the family. There are parades, TV specials, and discount shopping associated with this holiday. The following Friday is called __ *“Black Friday”* __ – a day that shoppers line up early in the morning to get the best sales and discounts for their holiday shopping.



Activity 3



10 min

Learning and Reviewing Prepositions

GRAMMAR, SPEAKING

Explain the use of prepositions. Next, ask the student(s) to complete task 3.

GRAMMAR REVIEW

Prepositions

Prepositions are one of the eight parts of speech in English. It shows the relationship between parts of a sentence. For example: “The turkey is ON the table.” The preposition “on” shows the relationship between the turkey and the table. The turkey could be under the table, beside the table, behind the table, in front of the table, and so on.

Prepositions tell us where the turkey is.

A **prepositional phrase** begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. And a **prepositional phrase of place** includes a preposition to tell us where something is located.

Examples:

on the table**to** the kitchen**from** the refrigerator**in** their chairs**with** the gravy boat**beside** it**beside** the potatoes**down** the hallway

**Task 3**

Using prepositional phrases of place, write six sentences describing the Thanksgiving scene in the image. You may use the prepositional phrases from the box or create your own.

on the table / next to the turkey / in their glasses / in the corner / against the walls / behind the table / at the window



Example: *Eight people have gathered around the table.*

Sample answers:

1. *There is a turkey on the table.*
2. *The children have juice in their glasses.*
3. *There is a candle next to the turkey.*
4. *A plant is behind the table.*
5. *Bookshelves are against the walls.*
6. *There is a couch in the corner.*

**Activity 4****10 min****Discussion****VOCABULARY, SPEAKING**

Ask the student(s) to complete task 4. Discuss the answers.



Task 4

Answer the questions relating to the topic.

1. What are some things you are thankful for in your life? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____
2. Which of the Thanksgiving dishes sound the most delicious to you? Would you introduce this dish to your family? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____
3. What would you buy during the "Black Friday" shopping day? ___ *student's idea(s)* ___
4. How far would you be willing to travel to celebrate a holiday with your family and friends? *student's idea(s)*
5. "There's always room for seconds." What do you think this means? ___ *student's idea(s)* ___
6. "There's always something to be thankful for." What do you think this means?
_____ *student's idea(s)* _____

"There's always room for seconds" means you can always eat more food even if you think there is not any space in your stomach for it.

"There's always something to be thankful for" means that even if things are not going well for you at the moment, there is always something in your life that you can be grateful for such as being alive.