THANKSGIVING

"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for."

Epicurus (341 – 270 BC), Greek philosopher

1. Thanksgiving Discussion

1. What does 'Thanksgiving' mean?
2. What do you know about the holiday? Where is it celebrated?
3. Do you celebrate Thanksgiving in your country? If not, is there any similar special day?
4. What food do people traditionally eat on Thanksgiving?
5. If you were at a Thanksgiving meal, what would you say you were thankful for?
6. Do you know anything about the origins of Thanksgiving?
7. What is the day after Thanksgiving called? What happens?
8. The first Thanksgiving was said to have happened in 1621 when Pilgrims who had arrived in the American colony shared a feast with Native Americans who had helped the Pilgrims through a difficult winter by giving them food. Do you think the European settlers and Native Americans really were friendly with each other in the American colonies?

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2. Thanksgiving Vocabulary

- **harvest** (noun) – *the process of collecting crops; the crops collected.*
- **gratitude** (noun) – *a display of thankfulness.*
- **thankful*** (adjective) – *describes a feeling of being pleased and relieved for something.*
- **grateful*** (adjective) – *describes a feeling of appreciation that one shows for something.*
- **blessed** (adjective) – *describes a feeling of fortune or good luck for something.*
- **to take [someone/something] for granted** (verb) – *to fail to appreciate the value of something.*

** although these words are slightly different in meaning, they are often used synonymously*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. I'd be very **grateful/thankful** if you could pick up the kids from school today; I have to work late.
2. I feel like my boss **takes me for granted**; he never thanks me for any of the work I do, and this week he expects me to work until 9pm every day.
3. The unusually cold winter is going to mean a severely reduced **harvest** this year.
4. I'm **blessed** to have been able to travel to over 50 countries.
5. I'm **grateful/thankful** that my parents had enough money to pay for my university education.
6. He's so ungrateful; he never shows his **gratitude** for anything.

Thanksgiving vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Does your country have a harvest festival to give thanks for the crops that have been grown?
2. How do you show your gratitude to those you are thankful to?
3. What are you most thankful for?
4. Who are you most grateful to?
5. What do people take for granted in their everyday lives?
6. Which life experiences are you blessed to have had?

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3. Video: The Origins Of Thanksgiving

You are going to watch a video by History called "History of the Holidays: History of Thanksgiving."

Watch the video here: ***https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-thanksgiving/***

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. In which year did almost half the Pilgrims die during winter?

   a) 1620 *b) 1630* *c) 1640*

2. What did the Wampanoag tribe not teach the Pilgrims?

   a) fishing *b) growing crops* ***c) farming animals***

3. How many days did the meal last between the Pilgrims and Wampanoags?

   a) 2 ***b) 3*** *c) 4*

4. Which of the following was not included in the meal?

   a) turkey *b) goose* *c) lobster*

Sentence completion

5. Later generations marked Thanksgiving as a **religious** holiday.
6. Every **autumn**, governors would declare days of thanksgiving for harvests, military victories, and rain.
7. A national day of thanksgiving was declared in **1777** to celebrate victory over the British.
8. Sarah Josepha Hale believed a national thanksgiving day could prevent **civil war**.

Short answer

9. In what year did Abraham Lincoln declare Thanksgiving to be a national holiday? **1863**
10. What did the Detroit Lions devise in an effort to boost attendances? **A Thanksgiving Day game**
11. When was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? **1924**
12. What is the most important thing about Thanksgiving Day? **Family**

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4. Thanksgiving Conversation Questions

1. Which people do you think are thankful for you?
2. What are some things you take for granted?
3. Do you think people take you for granted? Who do you take for granted?
4. Do you always say thank you? Do people always thank you for what you have done for them? How does this make you feel?
5. Are there any well-known people you are grateful to?
6. Which lessons in life are you most thankful to have received?
7. What were you thankful for this week?
8. Why should we show gratitude for things?

5. Thanksgiving Writing Task

Write about some of the things you are thankful for. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What they are.
- Why you are thankful for them.
- Whether or not you, or other people, ever take them for granted.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say that the younger generation of today take everything for granted and do not show gratitude for anything. Do you agree or disagree with this?

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