PAGE 1 · VOCABULARY

Thanksgiving Words

A2 and up · alone or in pairs · 10 to 15 minutes · a pen

1 Sort the 24 words into three groups.

cranberry sauce | relaxed | pumpkin pie | thankful | stuffing | float | sweet potatoes | homesick | overwhelmed | mashed potatoes | feast | Friendsgiving | host | gratitude | leftovers | cozy | turkey | parade | gravy | carve | grateful | nostalgic | harvest | Black Friday

FOOD	TRADITIONS	FEELINGS

2 Complete the sentences with a word from the box. Two words are extra.

carve | host | cozy | homesick | leftovers | grateful | gravy | parade | harvest | feast

1. After the big dinner, we ate _____ for three days.
2. I live far from my family, and in November I always feel _____.
3. It's Grandpa's job to _____ the turkey with the big knife.
4. Fifty people came to the _____, and there was food on every table.
5. Pour some _____ over your potatoes. It's made from the meat juices.
6. My sister wants to _____ the dinner this year, so we're all going to her place.
7. The kids watched the giant balloons in the _____ on TV.
8. I'm _____ for my health and for my friends.

Answers. Food: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, leftovers · Traditions: harvest, feast, host, carve, parade, float, Friendsgiving, Black Friday · Feelings: grateful, thankful, gratitude, cozy, homesick, nostalgic, overwhelmed, relaxed · Task 2: 1 leftovers, 2 homesick, 3 carve, 4 feast, 5 gravy, 6 host, 7 parade, 8 grateful

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PAGE 2 · IDIOMS

Thanksgiving Idioms

B1 and up · alone or in pairs · 15 minutes · a pen

1 Match each idiom to its meaning. Write the letter.

1. **talk turkey**	☐	**a**	very easy
2. **go cold turkey**	☐	**b**	to eat something very fast
3. **be stuffed**	☐	**c**	to stop a habit suddenly and completely
4. **gobble up**	☐	**d**	to have many things to deal with
5. **have a lot on your plate**	☐	**e**	to think about the good things you have
6. **bite off more than you can chew**	☐	**f**	to discuss something seriously and honestly, often money
7. **eat like a horse**	☐	**g**	to say that you are thankful, often before a meal
8. **count your blessings**	☐	**h**	to eat a lot
9. **easy as pie**	☐	**i**	to be completely full
10. **give thanks**	☐	**j**	to take on more than you can manage

2 Which idiom fits? Circle A or B.

1. Leo has two jobs, a new baby and a house to paint. He really _____.
   (A) **is easy as pie** (B) **has a lot on his plate**
2. "No dessert for me, thanks. I'm _____."
   (A) **stuffed** (B) **cold turkey**
3. Before they sign the contract, the two companies meet to _____.
   (A) **talk turkey** (B) **gobble up**
4. Inés stopped drinking coffee in one day. She _____.
   (A) **counted her blessings** (B) **went cold turkey**
5. Marco cooked for twenty people alone. He _____.
   (A) **ate like a horse** (B) **bit off more than he could chew**
6. The new app is so simple. Booking a table is _____.
   (A) **easy as pie** (B) **a lot on your plate**

Answers. Task 1: 1 f, 2 c, 3 i, 4 b, 5 d, 6 j, 7 h, 8 e, 9 a, 10 g · Task 2: 1 B, 2 A, 3 A, 4 B, 5 B, 6 A

PAGE 3 · READING

How Americans Celebrate Thanksgiving

B1, or A2 with a partner · 15 minutes · about 200 words

Before you read: *colonists* are people who settle in a new country; a *float* is a decorated platform on wheels in a parade.

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November, millions of Americans travel home for Thanksgiving. It is one of the busiest travel weeks of the year.

The holiday is often connected to a harvest meal in 1621. English colonists, later called the Pilgrims, shared a three-day feast with Wampanoag people in what is now Massachusetts. Historians point out that the real relationship between the two groups was more complicated than the simple story many children learn at school. For many Native Americans today, the day is also a time of mourning and remembrance. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Today the holiday is mostly about food and family. A typical dinner has roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Some families go around the table and say what they are grateful for. In the morning, many people watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, with its giant balloons. In the afternoon, they watch football.

The next day is Black Friday, when stores offer big discounts. Some shoppers are in line before sunrise. Others stay home, relax and eat leftovers.

1 Answer the questions.

1. When do Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?

2. Which two groups shared the harvest meal in 1621?

3. Why do some Native Americans see the day differently?

4. Name three dishes on a typical Thanksgiving table.

5. What happens on the day after Thanksgiving?

2 In my country. Answer, then compare with a partner.

- Is there a harvest festival or a day of thanks in your country? When is it?

- What do people eat, and who do they spend the day with?

- Which part of Thanksgiving would you like to try? Which part wouldn't you?

Answers. 1 On the fourth Thursday of November. · 2 English colonists (the Pilgrims) and Wampanoag people. · 3 For many of them, it is also a time of mourning and remembrance. · 4 Any three: roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie. · 5 Black Friday: stores offer big discounts.

PAGE 4 · DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Thanksgiving Question Cards

A2 to C1 · pairs or groups of 3 · 10 to 15 minutes · cut on the dashed lines

1. Cut out the cards for your level, or mix two levels. Put them face down.
2. Take a card and ask your partner. Your partner answers in two or three sentences.
3. Ask one more question about the answer: *Why?*, *What happened?* or *Is it the same in your family?* Then swap.

A2 What is your favorite holiday meal?	A2 What food do you always eat at a celebration?	A2 Have you ever tried pumpkin pie? Did you like it?
A2 Do you like cooking for other people?	A2 What are three things you are grateful for today?	A2 What do you like to do on a long weekend?
B1-B2 Is there a harvest festival or a day of thanks in your country? How do people celebrate it?	B1-B2 Why do you think food is at the center of so many holidays?	B1-B2 Would you rather host a big holiday dinner or be a guest? Why?
B1-B2 Which dish from your country would you bring to a Thanksgiving table?	B1-B2 Is it important to say thank you out loud, or is it enough to feel grateful?	B1-B2 Have you ever celebrated a holiday from another culture? What surprised you?
C1 Can one national holiday mean very different things to different groups in the same country?	C1 Some people keep a daily gratitude journal. Can writing things down change how you feel?	C1 Black Friday comes right after a day about being thankful for what you have. Is that a contradiction?
C1 Why do traditions survive even when people no longer know where they came from?	C1 Has a foreign holiday become popular where you live? How do people feel about it?	C1 How have holiday traditions in your country changed in the last thirty years?

PAGE 5 · GAME

Thanksgiving Taboo

A2 and up · pairs or two teams · 10 minutes · cut on the dashed lines

1. Cut out the cards and put them face down. Fill in the four empty cards with dishes from your country.
2. Take a card. Describe the word to your partner without saying it or the two words under it.
3. Your partner guesses. You have one minute: how many cards can you do? Then swap.

Example: *turkey.* "It's a big animal with feathers. Americans roast it whole in November."

turkey DON'T SAY bird · dinner	**pumpkin pie** DON'T SAY orange · dessert	**cranberry sauce** DON'T SAY red · berries	**mashed potatoes** DON'T SAY butter · white
gravy DON'T SAY sauce · meat	**stuffing** DON'T SAY bread · inside	**leftovers** DON'T SAY tomorrow · fridge	**parade** DON'T SAY street · balloons
Black Friday DON'T SAY shopping · sale	**harvest** DON'T SAY farm · autumn	**feast** DON'T SAY big · meal	**grateful** DON'T SAY thank · happy
homesick DON'T SAY home · miss	**host** DON'T SAY guests · invite	**carve** DON'T SAY knife · cut	**Friendsgiving** DON'T SAY friends · dinner
_____ DON'T SAY _____ a holiday dish from your country	_____ DON'T SAY _____ a holiday dish from your country	_____ DON'T SAY _____ a holiday dish from your country	_____ DON'T SAY _____ a holiday dish from your country

PAGE 6 · GAME

Plan the Feast

B1 and up · pairs or groups of 3 · 20 minutes · a pen

1. You are hosting Thanksgiving dinner for eight people, and you have **$100**. Your guest Carla is vegetarian.
2. Choose one main, three sides, one dessert and one drink. Carla needs a full plate too. Use the phrases to agree.
3. Write your menu and add up the cost. Then tell another group what you chose and why.

ITEM	SERVES	PRICE
MAIN		
Whole roast turkey	10	$38
Two roast chickens	8	$24
Vegetable lasagna V	8	$22
Stuffed pumpkin V	4	$12
SIDE		
Mashed potatoes V	8	$9
Sweet potatoes, marshmallows V	8	$10
Green beans V	8	$6
Stuffing, cooked inside the turkey	8	$8
Cranberry sauce V	8	$5
Bread rolls V	8	$4
Gravy	8	$5
DESSERT		
Pumpkin pie V	8	$12
Apple pie V	8	$11
Vanilla ice cream V	8	$7
DRINKS		
Apple cider V	8	$8
Sparkling water V	8	$4

	OUR CHOICE	PRICE
Main		
Side		
Side		
Side		
Dessert		
Drinks		
Total		**$**

V vegetarian

SUGGEST

How about the lasagna?

Why don't we get the apple pie?

AGREE

Good idea. That works for me.

DISAGREE

That's too expensive. Carla can't eat that.

PRESENT

We chose ... because ... We saved money on ...

PAGE 7 · WRITING

Close the Lesson in Writing

A2 to C1 · alone · 10 minutes, or homework · choose task A or B

TASK A · A2 TO B1

A thank-you note

Write a short note to a person who helped you this year. Read Ana's note first, then use the frame.

"Dear Ms. Lee, I want to thank you for your help this year. When I moved to the city, I didn't know anybody. You showed me where to buy food and how to take the bus, and you invited me to dinner on my first holiday here. That evening I didn't feel homesick at all. I'm very grateful, and I hope I can cook for you next year. Best wishes, Ana"

1. Dear _____,
2. I want to thank you for _____.
3. When _____, you _____.
4. Because of you, I _____.
5. I'm very grateful, and I hope _____.
6. Best wishes, _____

TASK B · B2 TO C1

Thanksgiving and a holiday from my country

Make notes in the table. Then write five or six sentences that compare the two holidays with **whereas**, **while** and **both**.

	THANKSGIVING	MY HOLIDAY: _____
When is it?		
What do people eat?		
Who do people spend it with?		
What do people do?		

1. Thanksgiving is in November, whereas _____.
2. While Americans eat turkey, _____.
3. Both holidays _____.