

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

What is Thanksgiving?

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1. celebrate | <u>E</u> | A. at a later time; after something that happened |
| 2. Native American | _____ | B. boiled, soft potatoes (mixed with butter and milk) |
| 3. afterwards | _____ | C. as stated or reported by somebody / something |
| 4. commonly | _____ | D. a kind of food made from bread and spices |
| 5. stuffing | _____ | E. to show a day is special by doing something special |
| 6. mashed potatoes | _____ | F. very large or important |
| 7. according to | _____ | G. usually; very often; by most people |
| 8. major | _____ | H. the original people living in America |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Change the forms of verbs and nouns when necessary.

1. According to Wikipedia, Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system.
2. My family always eats turkey, _____ and potatoes at Thanksgiving.
3. Are you going to _____ your birthday? Are you going to have a party?
4. I have to make a _____ decision: should I quit my job next week?
5. Rabbits and hamsters are _____ found in pet stores.
6. We ate dinner at a restaurant. _____ we saw a movie together.
7. _____s are also known as Indigenous Americans or First Americans.
8. How do you mash _____? How do you make them soft?

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

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BLENDED LEARNING LESSON

Topic: Thanksgiving

What is Thanksgiving?



Thanksgiving (or Thanksgiving Day) is a holiday that is **celebrated**¹ both in Canada and in the U.S.A. It has been a holiday in many places in Canada since 1957 and in all of the American states since 1863. In Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October, while in the U.S. it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. No one is sure exactly when the first Thanksgiving was celebrated, but many Americans think it was in 1621 – in a small town in North America called Plymouth. It was celebrated by a small group of people who had arrived from England called Pilgrims. It was celebrated because one of the **Native American**² people (people who first lived in North America) taught them how to catch fish and how to grow corn. This man's name was Squanto. The Pilgrims were very thankful for this help. Many Pilgrims' lives had been saved. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted for three days and it included fifty English men, women and children and about ninety Native Americans. **Afterwards**³, Thanksgiving became more and more popular in the United States until it finally became a national holiday. In both Canada and the U.S., turkey is the main part of the traditional Thanksgiving meal. Other foods **commonly**⁴ eaten include **stuffing**⁵, and **mashed potatoes**⁶ with gravy, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. **According to**⁷ Wikipedia, "Americans eat more food on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year." Along with Christmas and New Year's Day, Thanksgiving is one of the three **major**⁸ holiday celebrations of the year. In fact, according to usnews.com, 46.3 million Americans will travel fifty miles or more to be with friends and family to eat Thanksgiving dinner. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

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BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

What is Thanksgiving?

Grammar Practice

Thanksgiving (or Thanksgiving Day) is a holiday that is **(1)**_____ both in Canada and in the U.S.A. It has been a holiday in many places in Canada since 1957 and in all of the American states **(2)**_____ 1863. In Canada it is celebrated on the second Monday in October, while in the U.S. it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. No one is sure exactly when the first Thanksgiving was celebrated, but **(3)**_____ Americans think it was in 1621 – in a small town in North America called Plymouth. It was celebrated by a small **(4)**_____ people who had arrived from England called Pilgrims. It was celebrated because one of the Native American people (people who first lived in North America) taught **(5)**_____ how to catch fish and how to grow corn. This **(6)**_____ name was Squanto. The Pilgrims were very **(7)**_____ for this help. Many Pilgrims' lives had been saved. The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted for three days and it included fifty English men, women and **(8)**_____ and about ninety Native Americans. Afterwards, Thanksgiving became more and more popular in the United States until it finally **(9)**_____ a national holiday. In both Canada and the U.S., turkey is the main part of the traditional Thanksgiving meal. Other foods **(10)**_____ eaten include stuffing, and mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. According to Wikipedia, "Americans eat more food on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year." Along with Christmas and New Year's Day, Thanksgiving **(11)**_____ one of the three major holiday celebrations of the year. In fact, according to usnews.com, 46.3 million Americans will travel fifty miles or more to be with friends and family to **(12)**_____ Thanksgiving dinner. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

1.

- (A) celebrated
- (B) celebrates
- (C) celebrating

2.

- (A) when
- (B) since
- (C) in

3.

- (A) much
- (B) have
- (C) many

4.

- (A) groups
- (B) group
- (C) group of

5.

- (A) them
- (B) they
- (C) their

6.

- (A) man's
- (B) man
- (C) men

7.

- (A) thank you
- (B) thankful
- (C) thanking

8.

- (A) child
- (B) children
- (C) childish

9.

- (A) becoming
- (B) become
- (C) became

10.

- (A) commonly
- (B) common
- (C) uncommon

11.

- (A) were
- (B) are
- (C) is

12.

- (A) eats
- (B) eat
- (C) eating

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BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

What is Thanksgiving?



How Much Do You Understand?

● **Complete the statements.**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Both Canada and | A. first celebrated hundreds of years ago. |
| 2. Thanksgiving was | B. became a holiday. |
| 3. Pilgrims were thankful | C. with their families on Thanksgiving Day. |
| 4. Thanksgiving later | D. of Thanksgiving, especially turkey. |
| 5. Food is a very important part | E. the United States celebrate Thanksgiving. |
| 6. Millions of Americans travel to be | F. for the help they received when they first arrived in North America. |

Discuss

● **Discuss the following questions with your classmates.**

1. Have you ever celebrated Thanksgiving? Yes? Describe your experience.
2. What are your three favorite days in the year? Why do you like them?
3. What are some things that you are thankful for in your life?
4. Describe a very important holiday that is celebrated in your home country. What is it called? When is it celebrated? What do people do on that holiday?

Write

● **What are your three favorite special days in the year? Write them in the spaces below and include the dates they are celebrated.**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Title "What is Thanksgiving?"

Grammar Focus Mixed: Past Simple, Passive, Present and Past Perfect, Present Simple

Vocabulary 288 words

A1 words-68% / **A2** words-9% / **B1** words-6% / **B2** words-1% /

C1 words-1% / **C2** words-0% / **Off List**-15%

AWL Words in this text: *finally, major, traditional*

Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level Intermediate (CEFR B1)

A special thank you to
Tyane Debrouwere
for proofreading this
lesson!

ANSWER KEY Page 1

● Vocabulary

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1. E | 1. A According to |
| 2. H | 2. stuffing |
| 3. A | 3. celebrate |
| 4. G | 4. major |
| 5. D | 5. commonly |
| 6. B | 6. A Afterwards |
| 7. C | 7. Native Americans |
| 8. F | 8. mashed potatoes |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

● Grammar

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 7. B |
| 2. B | 8. B |
| 3. C | 9. C |
| 4. C | 10. A |
| 5. A | 11. C |
| 6. A | 12. B |

ANSWER KEY Page 4

● How Much Do You Understand?

- Both Canada and (E) the United States celebrate Thanksgiving.
- Thanksgiving was (A) first celebrated hundreds of years ago.
- Pilgrims were thankful (F) for the help they received when they arrived in North America.
- Thanksgiving later (B) became a holiday.
- Food is a very important part (D) of Thanksgiving, especially turkey.
- Millions of Americans travel to be (C) with their families on Thanksgiving Day.

Watch the
matching
video with
subtitles!



Article Sources

- *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Thanksgiving, With Leftovers*
<https://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2014/11/27/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-thanksgiving-with-leftovers>
- *Thanksgiving (United States)*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_%28United_States%29
- *Thanksgiving (Canada)*
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_\(Canada\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_(Canada))