



THANKSGIVING (USA)

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A1–A2 • Teacher Notes and Warm-Up

Lesson purpose

Introduce Thanksgiving as a major holiday in the United States. Learners discuss food, family, traditions, gratitude, and different ways people spend a holiday. The lesson does not assume every student celebrates Thanksgiving.

Suggested lesson route

- Begin with special meals, family gatherings, and things people feel thankful for.
- Use PDF 2 to teach food and table vocabulary, then move to sentences and role-play.
- Higher-level PDFs explore the holiday's complex history and Indigenous perspectives.

Warm-up questions

1. What special days or holidays do people celebrate where you live?
2. Do families sometimes eat a special meal together? What do they eat?
3. What food do you enjoy sharing with other people?
4. What makes a meal feel special?
5. Do you have a tradition you enjoy every year?
6. What is one thing you feel thankful for today?

Teaching notes

- In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. In 2026, it falls on November 26.
- Many people gather with family or friends, share food, and express gratitude. Traditions vary.
- The familiar story of the 1621 Plymouth harvest gathering is incomplete without context. Indigenous peoples had harvest and thanksgiving traditions long before Europeans arrived.
- Some Native people observe a National Day of Mourning. Present this respectfully; do not ask Indigenous learners to speak for everyone.
- Students may celebrate similar holidays, different holidays, or none at all.

Picture talk

Ask learners to point to or name things in the picture. Model short sentences: "I can see a turkey." "There are pumpkins on the table." "The family is sharing a meal."

Materials: PDF 2 picture, board or paper, and optional dictionaries.

Suggested time: 45–60 minutes; select activities to suit your class.