

Thanksgiving worksheet 1



Look, read and write.

Look at Tom's Thanksgiving poem. Can you help him complete it? Write the missing words.

moon

friends

love

house

sun

food

It's Thanksgiving Day!

Dinner's ready and I say

Thanks for my  ¹ _____ house _____,

Thanks for this  ² _____,



Thanks for the  ³ _____

And thanks for the  ⁴ _____.

And I always remember

On this Thursday in November

To say thanks because I have

Family,    ⁵ _____ and  ⁶ _____ !





Thanksgiving worksheet 2



What do you say thanks for? Write and draw.

It's Thanksgiving Day!

Dinner's ready and I say

Thanks for and

thanks for



Level 2

Teaching notes

Thanksgiving

- These cultural notes describe both the origins of this festival, as well as its current traditions. You can explain as much as you think is relevant to your class and encourage students to recognize and point to the relevant items on the worksheet.
- Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States, and the second Monday in October in Canada. On this special day, families get together to give thanks for what they have. The origins of the modern Thanksgiving Day are mostly traced to the harvest celebration that the Pilgrims (the first English settlers) held in Plymouth, in 1621. However, the first recorded religious thanksgiving happened in 1623. At this event, the settlers gave thanks for rain that ended a drought. These early thanksgivings were not held as a feast; rather, they took the form of a special church service. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as the national day to give thanks for “general blessings.”
- Nowadays, most people celebrate Thanksgiving by spending time with their families. They usually hold a feast with traditional dishes. Sometimes, most or all family members take part in the food preparation. Typical foods include turkey, gravy (a sauce made with meat juices and flour), stuffing (a mixture of food, such as bread, onion, and herbs used to fill the turkey), cornbread, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and cranberry sauce. For dessert, people usually have pie, such as pumpkin, apple, pecan, or sweet potato. After the meal, families often do other activities, such as taking a walk or a nap. Children also get together with their elders and play card or board games.
- Thanksgiving is also known as “Turkey Day.” During their meal, some families play a game in which they try to break the turkey’s wishbone, which is the V-shaped bone between the neck and breast of the turkey. Once the wishbone has been removed, it is pulled apart by two people – the person that gets the longer piece makes a secret wish.
- Some American Indian people such as the Wampanoag do not consider Thanksgiving Day a festive occasion. On this day, since 1970, many native people have gotten together at the statue of Massasoit (the Wampanoag leader) in Plymouth to remember their ancestors and their strength. American Indian Heritage Day is also celebrated at this time of the year.

Thanksgiving worksheet 1

- **Pre-activity:** Use the cultural notes to present Thanksgiving Day to students. You can use L1 to explain certain concepts as necessary. Say *On Thanksgiving Day in the U.S., families get together and they have a big meal. They all say thanks for the things they have. Thanksgiving Day is on the last Thursday in November.*
- Point to the poem and the boy (Tom) and say *Look, this is a poem. It’s Tom’s Thanksgiving poem. Can you help him complete it?* Read the words in the clouds or ask students to take turns to read them. Make sure the meaning of each word is clear. Then read the poem and pause after each picture for students to say the missing word. Finally, students complete the poem by writing the missing words. Circulate around the class, ensuring students are writing the correct words.

Key: 1 house, 2 food, 3 sun, 4, moon, 5 friends, 6 love

- **Optional follow-up activity:** Students act out the poem as a whole class. First, decide with students on an action to make for each picture / word in the poem (six actions in total, for the words: *house, food, sun, moon, friends, love*). Have students stand up and read the poem, doing the action for each of the words as they recite them. Try different alternatives for reciting the poem: half the class can say the words and the other half do the actions for them; the whole class can say the poem omitting the words and just doing the actions for them; they can whisper the poem, or say it quickly, in a loud voice, etc. Then in pairs, students can take turns to say and act out the poem: Student A says the words while Student B acts them out. Then students exchange roles.

Thanksgiving worksheet 2

- **Pre-activity:** Write your own short text on the board and complete it. Then read it aloud for students. Read and say, e.g., *It’s Thanksgiving Day! Dinner’s ready and I say ... Thanks for the stars and thanks for my class. Now, it’s your turn! Before students complete their text, encourage some individual answers and write them on the board. Say, e.g., Carmen, what do you say thanks for? (my dog and my bike)*
- Students complete the sentence with two things they say thanks for. As students work, circulate helping them with new vocabulary as necessary and asking them questions, e.g., *Who’s ... ? How often do you ... ? What’s your favorite ... ?*
- Students draw the things they are thankful for – they can draw both things or choose one of the two and draw it.

Key: Students’ own answers

- **Optional follow-up activities:** Say *Let’s say thanks!*

It's Thanksgiving Day, Dinner's ready and I say ... Thanks for ... Then encourage each student to say their answer (e.g. *the trees and my family*). Tell the class to listen for things that are mentioned more than once.

- Each student thinks of two actions to do for their words. Then in pairs, groups of four or as a whole class, they read their sentence, acting out the words instead of saying them. Their partner(s) or the rest of the class guess(es) which words they are.