

# Thankful Hearts

## Skills:

Can identify specific information in simpler written material he/she encounters such as letters, brochures and short newspaper articles describing events.

Adults

Group



**1** Tick the words related to Thanksgiving. Compare your answers in pairs. If you don't know some words, check out the glossary on Page 3. Check the answers with your teacher.

- ☐ spooky decorations
- ☐ to decorate the tree
- ☐ cranberry sauce
- ☐ to write a letter to Santa
- ☐ to cook a turkey
- ☐ costume party
- ☐ gingerbread cookies
- ☐ to sing carols
- ☐ to be thankful
- ☐ to watch parade
- ☐ trick or treat
- ☐ mashed potato
- ☐ to watch a football game on TV
- ☐ gingerbread cookies

**2** Read Gabriela's story about her first Thanksgiving in the USA. Why does she feel lucky during Thanksgiving?

## My First Thanksgiving in the USA



I am from Brazil and I live in New York. In 2018, I was very excited because it was my first Thanksgiving in the USA.

On Thanksgiving Day, I woke up at 7:00 a.m. My husband and I went to his mother's house in Brooklyn. The house was full of people. There were many children, too. They were playing in the living room.

At 12:00 p.m., we ate lunch. We had turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and apple pie. It was delicious! After lunch, we watched football on TV. My husband's family loves sports!

In the evening, we played board games. We played Monopoly and Scrabble. My mother-in-law won Monopoly, but I won Scrabble! At around 10:00 p.m., we went home. I was very tired, but I was happy.

I think Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. It's not like Christmas or New Year's Eve. Nobody gives presents. But we say thank you. We say thank you to our friends and family, and we say thank you to God for all the good things in our lives. I love that. It's important to remember that there are a lot of things to be thankful about.

Thanksgiving is also about food. I love food! I cook a lot, so I like to try new recipes for Thanksgiving. Last year, I made a Brazilian dessert called brigadeiro. Everybody liked it. This year, I'm going to make a Brazilian drink called caipirinha. I think they'll like that, too.

Another thing I like about Thanksgiving is that it's a time to be with family. My family is in Brazil, so I really miss them. But I'm lucky because I have my husband's family. They're very nice to me, and they make me feel welcome. I'm thankful for that.

This year, I'm going to my mother-in-law's house again. I can't wait!

3 Fill in the table with the information from the text and share it with the rest of the group:

- Have you tried any of these dishes?
- What do you usually do on family holidays in your country?

What people <b>eat</b> on this holiday	What people <b>do</b> on this holiday

4 Find the right ending for each sentence.

1. My dad always falls asleep after eating too much while watching...
2. I love eating cranberry...
3. We always gather around the TV to watch the Thanksgiving...
4. It is important to be thankful...
5. My mother will teach me how to cook...
6. My favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal is...

...the mashed potatoes.

...for what we have on Thanksgiving.

....parade every year.

...the football game on TV on Thanksgiving.

....a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner.

...sauce with my turkey on Thanksgiving.

5 Thankful chain activity.

Write down one thing you are thankful for on a piece of paper that your teacher gave you (for example, “food on the table”). Then pass your paper to the person on your left. Read the one that you got from the person on your right. Add your sentence. Pass it once again. Add one more sentence. Read all the sentences that you have on your piece of paper aloud to your groupmates.

Examples:

She is thankful for her parents' love.  
He is thankful for his new phone.  
I am thankful for the food on the table.





# Glossary

- **Cranberry sauce** – a sweet sauce made from cranberries (small red berries), often served with turkey during Thanksgiving dinner.
- **Gingerbread cookies** – small, sweet cookies flavored with ginger and other spices, in shape of people or animals.
- **To be thankful** – to be happy about something good that has happened, or that something bad has not happened.
- **Spooky decorations** – scary things used to decorate for Halloween, such as fake spider webs, skeletons, and ghosts.
- **To sing carols** – to sing traditional songs about Christmas, often going door-to-door in the neighborhood.
- **Mashed potatoes** – potatoes mixed with butter and milk to create a soft and creamy side dish.
- **Trick or treat** – a phrase used by children on Halloween when they go from house to house asking for candy.
- **Turkey** – a large bird that people usually eat on Thanksgiving.
- **Parade** – a public march, often with music, and costumes.
- **Costume party** – a fun event where people dress up in different clothes to look like someone or something else.

# Correct answers

1

**Created in the “Essential vocabulary” tool.**

- cranberry sauce
- to cook a turkey
- to watch parade
- to be thankful
- mashed potato
- to watch a football game on TV

2

**Created in the “Create a text” tool.**

She feels lucky because she has her husband's family. They're very nice to her, and they make her feel welcome.

3

**What people eat on this holiday:**

turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and apple pie.

**What people do on this holiday:**

have Thanksgiving lunch; watch football; play board games like Monopoly and Scrabble; say thank you to their friends and family, and to God for all the good things in their lives.

4

**Created in “Sentences with target vocabulary” + “Matching halves”.**

1. the football game on TV on Thanksgiving.
2. sauce with my turkey on Thanksgiving.
3. parade every year.
4. for what we have on Thanksgiving.
5. a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner
6. the mashed potatoes.

5

**Created in “Lead-in activities”.**