

Festive mood: Easter

🔦 B2 Level

🔦 Duration: 1 h

🔦 Individual lesson

🔦 Age: Adults

🔦 Lesson goals

The student can explain features of his/her own culture to members of another culture or explain features of the other culture to members of his/her own culture.

The student is aware of, and looks out for signs of, the most significant differences between the customs, usages, attitudes, values and beliefs prevalent in the community concerned and those of his or her own community.

1

Warm-up

Exercise 1: Below you can see some headlines from a local English newspaper. Which word is missing?

“Chocolate Sales Soar as _____ Approaches”

“_____ Sales: The Best Deals for Your Spring Shopping Needs”

“_____ Bunny Brings Joy to Children in Hospital”

“Kids Learn to Dye Eggs in _____ Workshop”



Exercise 2: Look at the pictures. What do you see in each of them?

- What do you know about Easter celebrations in the UK/US/Canada/Australia and other English-speaking countries?
- Do you usually celebrate Easter?

2**Listening**

Exercise 3: Watch this video and write out all the US / Canadian Easter traditions that the speakers mention.

**3****Reading**

Exercise 4: Now read the text below and complete the table with the facts both from the video and the text:

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the crucifixion* and resurrection* of Jesus Christ. It is a time for reflection, renewal, and fresh starts. One of the most beloved Easter traditions is the Easter egg hunt. Children eagerly await this annual event, searching high and low for brightly colored eggs hidden throughout the house or yard.

The origins of the Easter egg hunt lie in ancient celebrations of spring and fertility. Eggs were seen as a symbol of new life and rebirth, making them a great addition to Easter celebrations. Today, many families continue the tradition of decorating and hiding eggs for their children to find. Some use natural dyes made from vegetables or fruits to create vibrant colors, while others choose store-bought kits with pre-made designs. The Easter bunny, another popular symbol of the holiday, is said to bring baskets filled with candy and small gifts for children who have been good throughout the year.

In addition to the egg hunt, many people attend church services on Easter Sunday. This is a time to think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for humanity and to celebrate his victory over death. Some communities also hold Easter parades, where participants dress in colorful costumes and carry banners depicting scenes from the Bible.

A traditional Easter meal often includes ham or lamb, along with side dishes like potatoes, green beans, and deviled eggs. Hot cross buns, sweet rolls with a cross-shaped icing on top, are also a popular treat during this time of year. Families gather together to share a meal and spend time with loved ones.

Whether you celebrate Easter for religious reasons or simply enjoy the traditions and festivities, it is a time to come together with family and friends and appreciate all that life has to offer.

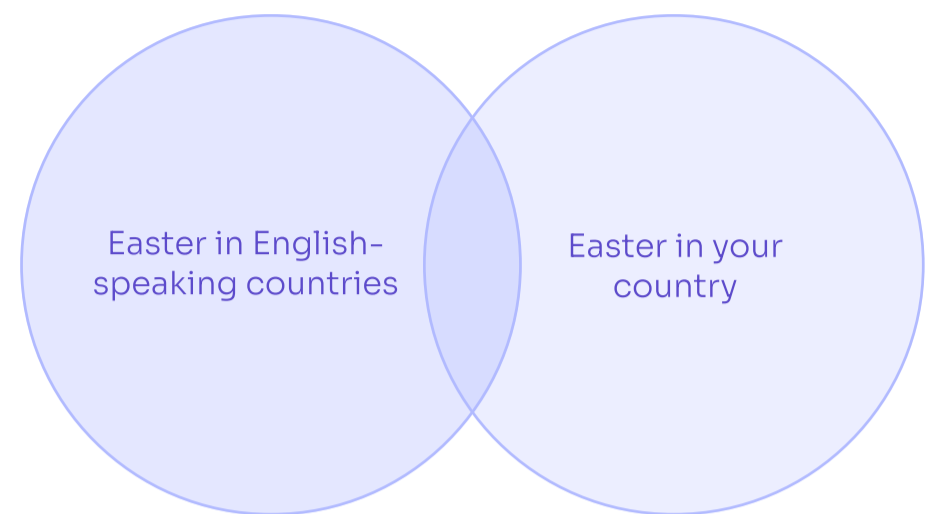
*crucifixion - the act of killing somebody by attaching them to a cross

*resurrection - the time when Jesus Christ returned to life again after his death

Origins and meaning	Traditional food	Traditional events

4**Speaking (optional)**

Exercise 5: Draw a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles – one for Easter in English-speaking countries and one of Easter in your native country. Fill in the diagram with similarities and differences between the holidays.



After you complete the diagram, answer the following questions:

1. Describe what you can see in the diagram. What is similar? What is different?

This vocabulary might help you make your response more structured:

on the one hand

however

nevertheless

compared to

on the other hand

in contrast

both ... and ...

as opposed to

similarly

on the contrary

neither ... nor ...

unlike

2. Would you say that there are more similarities or differences between Easter in English-speaking countries and your country?
3. Have you ever heard of any unique Easter traditions from other countries or cultures?
4. Why do you think Easter is such an important holiday for many people around the world?

5**Vocabulary**

Exercise 6: We don't talk about Easter every day but there are idioms and phrases connected to religion and religious holidays that we use daily. Let's explore.

1. to worship someone
2. don't put all your eggs in one basket
3. a chicken and egg situation
4. be religious about something
5. break bread together
6. blessing in disguise
7. to egg someone on
 - a. to share a meal with someone, often as a sign of friendship or goodwill
 - b. do not risk everything on a single opportunity or investment
 - c. something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good in the end
 - d. to be very dedicated and committed to something, like a routine or habit
 - e. to greatly admire or respect someone
 - f. a situation where it is difficult to determine which event came first and caused the other
 - g. to encourage or push someone to do something, often something risky or dangerous

Exercise 7: Fill in these short dialogues with the idioms and phrases from the previous exercise.

Sarah: "I'm thinking of investing all my savings into this project."

Tom: "Be careful. _____(1). It's better to diversify your portfolio."

Emily: "I lost my job last week."

Mike: "I'm sorry to hear that. But maybe it's a _____(2). You can take some time to figure out what you really want to do."

Karen: "I'm trying to lose weight, so I've been _____(3) going to the gym every day."

David: "That's great! Keep up the good work."

Alex: "I really _____(4) Beyoncé. She's such an amazing performer."

Sophie: "I agree. She's definitely one of the greatest entertainers of our time."

Mark: "I need experience to get a job, but I can't get experience without a job. It's _____(5)."

Emily: "I know what you mean. It can be really frustrating."

Kate: "I'm thinking of asking my boss for a raise."

John: "Go for it! I'll be there to _____(6)."



Correct answers and teaching tips

Exercise 1: Below you can see some headlines from a local English newspaper. Which word is missing?

Created in "Reading bits and pieces"



Teacher tip

Give this task separately from the other tasks in this lesson and don't show the lesson title to the student.

Exercise 3: Watch this video and write out all the US / Canadian Easter traditions that the speakers mention.

Correct answers:

getting together with family
having turkey
painted eggs
Easter egg hunt
going to church
getting chocolate

Exercise 4: Now read the text below and complete the table with the facts both from the video and the text:

Created in "Create a text"

Origins and meaning	Traditional food	Traditional events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ ▪ A time for reflection, renewal, and fresh starts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ham or lamb, along with side dishes like potatoes and green beans ▪ Eggs ▪ Chocolate ▪ Hot cross buns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Easter egg hunt ▪ Decorating and hiding eggs ▪ The Easter bunny brings baskets ▪ Attending church services ▪ Easter parades ▪ A traditional Easter meal

Exercise 5: Draw a Venn diagram

Created in "Lead-in activities for a text"; Vocabulary generated in "Essential vocabulary"



Teacher tip

Use this task if Easter is celebrated in your country

Exercise 6: We don't talk about Easter every day but there are idioms and phrases connected to religion and religious holidays that we use daily. Let's explore.

Phrases generated in "Essential vocabulary"

Correct matches:

1. e; 2. b; 3. f; 4. d; 5. a; 6. c; 7. g

Exercise 7: Fill in these short dialogues with the idioms and phrases from the previous exercise.

Created in "Create communicative situations with your vocabulary"

Correct answers:

1. don't put all your eggs in one basket
2. blessing in disguise
3. religious about
4. worship
5. a chicken and egg situation
6. egg you on