

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've got

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



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 learners to recognise 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 having 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 have a go at breaking 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 got 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 learners. You can use L1 to explain certain concepts as necessary. Say *On Thanksgiving Day in the US, families get together and they have a big meal. They all say thanks for the things they've got. 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 learners 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 learners to say the missing word. Finally, learners complete the poem by writing the missing words. Circulate around the class, ensuring learners are writing the correct words.

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

- **Optional follow-up activity:** Learners act out the poem as a whole class. First, decide with learners on a gesture to make for each picture / word in the poem (six gestures in total, for the words: *house, food, sun, moon, friends, love*). Have learners stand up and read the poem, making the gesture 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 make the gestures for them; the whole class can say the poem omitting the words and just making the gestures for them; they can whisper the poem, or say it quickly, in a loud voice, etc. Then in pairs, learners can take turns to say and act out the poem: Learner A says the words while Learner B acts them out. Then learners exchange roles.

Thanksgiving worksheet 2

- **Pre-activity:** Write your own short text on the board and complete it. Then read it aloud for learners. 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 learners 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)*
- Learners complete the sentence with two things they say thanks for. As learners work, circulate helping them with new vocabulary as necessary and asking them questions, e.g. *Who's ... ? How often do you ... ? What's your favourite ... ?*
- Learners draw the things they are thankful for – they can draw both things or choose one of the two and draw it.

Key: Learners' 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 learner 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 learner thinks of two gestures to make 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.