



Thanksgiving Traditions Around the World

Discussion > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

colonist	A person who lives in or goes to live in a country controlled by another, more powerful country.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Three different groups of colonists settled in these parts almost two centuries ago.</i>

feast	A large meal.
[noun]	<i>Ex: My family celebrates Christmas every year with a large feast.</i>

harvest	The time of year when crops are gathered; the act of gathering crops.
[noun]	<i>Ex: He checks the quality of the grains of wheat before the harvest.</i>



lunar	Relating to the moon.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Apparently, there's a lunar eclipse later this month.</i>

ancestor	Someone related to you who lived a long time ago.
[noun]	<i>Ex: My ancestors were farmers in the south.</i>

gratitude	The feeling or quality of being thankful to someone or something.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Let me express my gratitude for all your help.</i>



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor and discuss the key points.

Thanksgiving Traditions Around the World

Thanksgiving is often thought of as an American holiday. The first American Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621, when the English colonists shared a feast with Native Americans to give thanks for their first harvest.

The original celebration lasted for three days, and involved singing, storytelling and enjoying foods such as lobster, seal, and swan. Nowadays, most Americans celebrate by gathering with family, eating turkey and pumpkin pie, and watching football.

Other countries celebrate the harvest season with their own holidays, many of which also involve giving thanks and eating together with family.



Germans have a yearly Harvest Thanksgiving Festival involving music, dancing, fireworks, and parades. Many people also go to church on Thanksgiving. For dinner, they usually eat chicken or geese since turkey is not as common in Germany.

In China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, the holiday is called the Mid-Autumn Festival and is based on the lunar calendar. Chinese families get together to watch the full moon and eat mooncake, a traditional dessert usually filled with nuts, beans, or egg yolks.

Brazil celebrates Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November, just like the US. They also eat many of the same foods. As in the US, Brazilian stores have big sales the day after Thanksgiving. This is when many people start shopping for Christmas presents.

In Korea, many people return to their hometowns for Chuseok. Families visit the graves of their ancestors, and leave food or flowers as gifts to them. Bulgogi and songpyeon, a small rice cake, are popular foods during the holiday.

People around the world have their own unique ways of giving thanks during the harvest season. But while the food and traditions may be different, the feeling of gratitude is the same.



Exercise 3 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Which of the traditions featured in the article did you find most interesting? Why?
2. Do you think you'd enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving in the US? Why? Why not?
3. Is there a holiday similar to Thanksgiving in your country? If so, how is it celebrated?
4. Are there any holidays or festivals that are unique to your country or culture? If so, please describe them.
5. What holiday do you look forward to the most? Why?
6. What are your favorite holiday foods? Please describe them.
7. What would you say are the most important holidays where you live? Please explain your answer.
8. In your opinion, which country has the most interesting holidays or celebrations?