**Holidays in the United States**

**Types of Holidays**

In the United States, there are two main types of holidays:

* **Federal holidays:** These are mandated by federal law and apply to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are a total of 11 federal holidays, including:
  + New Year's Day (January 1)
  + Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (third Monday in January)
  + Presidents' Day (third Monday in February)
  + Memorial Day (May 30)
  + Independence Day (July 4)
  + Labor Day (first Monday in September)
  + Columbus Day (second Monday in October)
  + Veterans Day (November 11)
  + Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)
  + Christmas Day (December 25)
* **State holidays:** Each state may have its own additional holidays. For example, California has Cesar Chavez Day (March 31) to honor the Latino American labor leader, while Hawaii has Kamehameha Day (June 25) to commemorate King Kamehameha I, who unified the Hawaiian Islands. The number and types of state holidays vary depending on the history, culture, and traditions of each state.

**Observance of Holidays**

* **Federal holidays:** On federal holidays, most government offices and businesses are closed. Schools may also be closed, but some may only be closed half-day or hold special events. Americans often spend holidays with family, gather with friends, travel, or participate in community events.
* **State holidays:** On state holidays, government offices and businesses in that state may be closed or have limited hours. Schools in that state may also be closed or hold special events.

**Government Decision-Making Process**

* **Federal holidays:** Federal holidays are established by federal law, which is passed by the US Congress and signed by the President. Changing or adding a federal holiday requires the approval of both houses of Congress and the signature of the President.
* **State holidays:** State holidays are established by state law, which is passed by the state legislature and signed by the state governor. Changing or adding a state holiday requires the approval of the state legislature and the signature of the state governor.

**Additional Notes**

* In addition to official holidays, there are also some days that are not officially recognized as holidays but are widely celebrated by many Americans, such as Valentine's Day (February 14) and Halloween (October 31).
* The holiday system in the United States is quite complex and diverse, with a combination of federal holidays, state holidays, and other traditional holidays. Observance of holidays can also vary depending on the state and individual businesses.