

# Thanksgiving and Gratitude

## *Welcome to Talk Time!*

How are you? How was your week?  
Discuss the idiom of the week – “I’m stuffed.”



## Let's get started

### Read the story about Thanksgiving together.



Thanksgiving began in 1621. The first people to celebrate were the Pilgrims and Native American Indians. The Pilgrims were a small group of people from Europe. They sailed to North America in 1620 because they wanted religious freedom. Their first winter in North America was very harsh. They did not have enough food, and many people died. In the spring, one of the Native American Indians, Squanto, helped the Pilgrims. He showed them how to plant corn, and how to hunt for wild turkeys. The next year, the Pilgrims had a good harvest with a lot of food. To celebrate, they planned a big dinner, and they invited the local Native Americans to the party.

Today, many people travel long distances to be with family members for the Thanksgiving holiday. People plan big dinner parties. They eat with family and friends, and they think about what they are thankful for.

### Discuss as a group.

- How was your first year in the United States? Was it difficult like the Pilgrims' first year? Explain.
- Have you celebrated Thanksgiving? What did you do? Will you celebrate this year?
- Can you remember a holiday or special family time you experienced? What made it special to you?

Think about the questions below. Write your thoughts on the card provided. Then, discuss with a partner.

1. What are you thankful for this year?
2. What are you thankful for every day?
3. What do you forget to be thankful for?



Share something from your conversation with the group.

## Conversation skills

As we discuss, let's ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let's also use the phrase "Tell me more." The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

## Discussion

### **Discuss questions as a group.**

Is there a special day in your home country when people "give thanks"? If so, please tell about it. What is it called? When is it? How do people celebrate it?

What did you thank someone for recently? What did someone thank you for recently?

In your native culture, do you have several ways of saying thank you – some formal, some casual? Explain.

In your native culture, how do people commonly thank each other? By saying "thank you," by giving money, with a written card, with a phone call, with a present, or in some other way?



How do **you** thank someone? How did you thank someone recently? How do you **like** to be thanked?

Teach each other to say "thank you" in your native languages.

In America, family members may live far apart, so it is very special to have a holiday when they can celebrate together. In your home country do extended family members usually live nearby? How often do extended families spend time together?

Traditional Thanksgiving foods include turkey, potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. What are some common holiday foods in your home country? Do you eat different foods on different holidays?



The Friday after Thanksgiving is usually the busiest day of the year for stores. Many people buy gifts to give for the winter holidays. Some stores open at midnight and people line up to go inside for special bargains. What is the busiest shopping time in your home country?

Will you go shopping the day after Thanksgiving? Where will you go? What will you buy?

For Thanksgiving, some people decorate their homes with turkeys, different colored leaves, and pumpkins. Do you decorate your house for any holidays or special occasions? Explain.

## Reflect:

**Discuss as a group:** What did you learn today? What did you learn about yourself or someone in the group? What do you want to talk about next week?