

BRIDGE

ACTIVITY SHEET



Teaching materials selected from the English magazine Bridge. Copying and free distribution permitted.

A0-A1

PRIMARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGED 8-11)

A1-A2

PRIMARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGED 10-13)

A2-B1

PRIMARY- AND SECONDARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGED 13-16)

B1-B2

SECONDARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS (AGED 16-19)

THANKSGIVING

THE FEAST

Which of these would you expect at Thanksgiving? You can use the article “No One Should Be Alone: Thanksgiving Traditions” to help you. Do you know when people traditionally eat the others?



GREEN BEANS



HAM



MASHED POTATOES



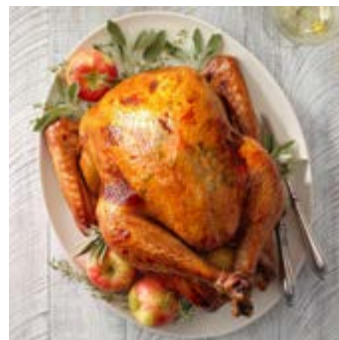
CRANBERRY SAUCE



BRUSSELS SPROUTS



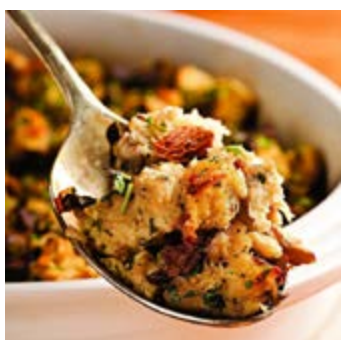
GRAVY



ROAST TURKEY



PIGS IN BLANKETS



STUFFING



PUMPKIN PIE



ROAST BEEF



DINNER ROLLS



AT THE THANKSGIVING TABLE

Listen to a family sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner. Which of the things do they mention having on the table?



Scan the QR code or go to www.bridge-online.cz/bridge, November 2020 issue and play CD Track 11.

Bonus question: The father, Gerry, calls his son Tom a “wet blanket”. Do you know what the idiom means? Look it up, if needed, and write down the definition and your own sentence using the idiom.

WRITING: COME OVER FOR THANKSGIVING

Imagine that you live in the USA and Thanksgiving is coming. You are going to celebrate the holiday with your family and you'd like to invite your European classmate to join the celebration. Write them an email of 100–200 words, inviting them and explaining what the celebration will be like. (Who will attend? What will you eat? What activities will you do?) Use at least some of the facts mentioned in the article, but add your own ideas as well.

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

Finish the sentences with the help of the article.

- 1 The first Thanksgiving took place _____ years ago.
- 2 This year, Thanksgiving takes place on November _____.
- 3 If you _____, it's called a “food coma”.
- 4 An average Thanksgiving turkey weighs _____.
- 5 In addition to the family dinner, Thanksgiving traditions include _____.
- 6 If a young couple chooses to celebrate together with one of their families, it shows that _____.

FREE TEACHERS' PACK

Teachers ordering 11 or more subscriptions receive the following teachers' pack for free: a magazine, a teachers' file, a CD, a poster, a card and a calendar.

TEACHERS' FILE



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY CARD



FREE MAGAZINE



CD WITH LISTENING EXERCISES



DESKTOP CALENDAR FOR TEACHERS

CLASSROOM POSTER

The images are for illustrative purposes only.



LANGUAGE ON YOUR TABLE: THANKSGIVING IDIOMS

Can you complete these lyrics with the correct idioms from the article “Language on Your Table: Thanksgiving Idioms”? They’re all real songs.

1

He’s found himself a comfortable woman
Easy on the eyes and easy on the mind
She never contradicts his spoken word
Looks like an angel, _____.

From “Out on The Edge” by Laura Lisbeth

2

Did you really _____
The things they claimed you ate?
Were you fit to swallow it
Or scared to clean your plate?

From “Android Warehouse” by Steely Dan

3

Sometimes I wake up late and don’t even brush my teeth
Just wanna _____ with leftover mac and cheese
You know I get depressed.
Are you impressed with my honesty?

From “Perfect” by Anne-Marie

4

There’s the lucky little mothers in their luxury cars
Never thank each other or their lucky stars
Ridin’ on _____

From [spoiler] by Dire Straits

5

Our addiction to each other was so beautiful
But I guess you _____
Girl that’s good for you.

From [spoiler] by Kid Berg

6

Please don’t throw away that leftover food
Santa gave us some advice
To be naughty’s very nice
‘Cause when _____
It’ll always feel like Christmas to you!

From “Gonna Eat for Christmas” by Gloria Estefan

7

Baby, there’s nothin’ hard about lovin’
Basically, it’s as _____,
The hard part is livin’ without your love.

From “1, 2, 3” by Len Barry

Bonus task

Write a short poem or some song lyrics using 1–3 of the idioms.

THE FESTIVAL

Oh, no! Bad news. It's bad enough having the coronavirus, but we've got a TV's epic rumour, too. :(It gets into our files and mixes up the letters of no dram words. Our articles don't mean seeks any more. There's nothing we can do about it! You need to fix the following article for us by finding the parts that don't make sense and unscrambling the letters.

Here are three examples from the intro above:

NONSENSE PHRASE OR WORD	CORRECT PHRASE OR WORD
TV's epic rumours	computer virus
no dram	random
mean seeks	make sense

TIPS

- Looking at the context should help you find the nonsense and figure out the right word or phrase.
- You do have to use all the letters, but you don't have to use the same punctuation (e.g. apostrophes), number of words or capitalisation. In most cases (but not all), the correct answer is just one word.
- If you get really stuck unscrambling the words, try an online anagram solver like wordsmith.org/anagram

A PARADE FOR 2020

The annual Canadian TV's shaky egg pyramid in New York City is the world's largest parade. It is sponsored by a US department-store chain. The parade started in 1924.

In modern times, the event has drawn a live crowd of roughly 3.5 million and is made up of 8,000 trip captains, including performers, marching bands, dancers and more. But this year, because of the carnivorous pandemic, there will be some big changes.

Bad News

You might have already guessed (or read) that the event is going to look very fetid fern this year. We'll still get the performances and balloons and holiday fun, but in a safer way: the parade will only be shown on evil iNotes and there will be no live crowds watching.

Macy's will be reducing the overall number of people taking part by approximately 75% and there will be no rich lend under 18 years old. They will also be requiring everyone to wear face coverings and practise social dining cats – the same requirements it had for its Fourth of July fireworks programme over the summer.

Good News

Perhaps we should be happy that it is happening at all. In three previous years (all during the old card's new row, in 1942, 1943 and 1944) the parade was cancelled completely. And the fact is, in recent times



most people tend to watch the parade on television anyway. So it's good news that manic ears can still enjoy being with family and sitting down to watch the parade. If you'd like to watch it too, it will be broadcast on NBC-TV and reed mats on YouTube TV and Hulu+.

NONSENSE PHRASE OR WORD	CORRECT PHRASE OR WORD
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	



NO ONE SHOULD BE ALONE

THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

You've probably heard the story of the first Thanksgiving: in 1621 the Pilgrims (English settlers) in Plymouth, Massachusetts celebrated their first harvest in the New World with a three-day feast. Many people dislike how we celebrate this historical event today because of how the settlers later treated the Native Americans. Even so, Thanksgiving remains one of America's best-loved holidays because it is one of the few times in the year when even big families come together. It's a national holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, and most people also have the day off on the Wednesday and Friday for travel and preparations, making it a five-day weekend.

The Feast

Turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, rolls and pumpkin pie are the most common foods on the Thanksgiving table. Every family has its own recipes, which makes the food taste unique. The quantity of food is also important: Thanksgiving should be a real feast. Most Americans eat far more than necessary, often to the point of indigestion, and can even enter a "food coma" – a sudden sleepiness caused by overeating. American ovens are generally much larger than those elsewhere in the world because

of the need to hold an enormous turkey (around seven kilos on average), and many kitchen tables come with an extension that can be used to make the table bigger.

The Festival

Food is the highlight of the holiday, but there are other traditions as well. There is always an American football game on television, as well as parades such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Just about every American television show also has a "Thanksgiving special" each year, often themed around the stress of cooking the meal or spending the holiday with difficult family members.

The Family

Because Thanksgiving is considered *the* family holiday, extended family that don't often see each other are usually present at the meal, and Americans are willing to travel a long way to attend. Young couples might celebrate separately with their own families, or choose one family to eat with together as a symbol of the seriousness of their relationship. Groups of friends who are living away from their families or don't have a family to visit may celebrate together and combine all their traditions. And those who are alone or just visiting the US might find themselves invited by a friend to join their family's meal and told that no one should be alone on Thanksgiving.

Megan LeBoeuf (USA)

DO-IT-YOURSELF GLOSSARY

In the article, find words that mean:

- 1 small, round pieces of bread, typically eaten warm with butter: _____
- 2 a pain in your stomach from eating too much or eating certain types of food: _____
- 3 relatives other than parents and children: _____
- 4 an enormous meal with lots of food: _____
- 5 a person who arrives in a new place to live there and use the land: _____

S Solutions in the TF and next month on the Bridge website

LANGUAGE POINT•

If you heard someone mention Michael Jordan, you might ask, "*The* Michael Jordan?" (meaning "The famous one, not one of the 3,209 other people in the US named Michael Jordan?"). When we use "*the*" in this way, we emphasize it and always pronounce it [ði:].

LANGUAGE ON YOUR TABLE THANKSGIVING IDIOMS

To help celebrate America's second biggest holiday, here is a collection of idioms connected to the Thanksgiving table.

Patrick Phillips (USA)

TO BE STUFFED

When you put a mixture of bread and spices in the turkey before baking it is called stuffing the turkey, and the mixture is called stuffing. But if you are stuffed, it means you have eaten so much food that you feel like the one who is stuffed.

No thank you, Grandma, I couldn't possibly eat another fruit dumpling. I'm stuffed!

TO STUFF YOUR FACE

This is the process of getting stuffed, when you eat and eat and eat.

My mom said that all I do all summer is watch YouTube and stuff my face. She's right of course, but she says it like it's a bad thing.

THE GRAVY TRAIN

Gravy is a sauce that's eaten with the Thanksgiving turkey. So how did that become a train? "Gravy" used to be slang for anything luxurious, which led to "riding the gravy train" for an easy, comfortable life. Now it means an occupation that gives you a lot of money for very little work.

When Karen became a professional gamer, she was on the gravy train.

EASY AS PIE

If something is really easy, we say it's "as easy as pie". Is pie easy to make? I don't think so, but maybe a baker made this one up. You can also say "it's a piece of cake", but we prefer pie at Thanksgiving.

Rescuing Princess Peach in Mario is as easy as pie.

TO GOBBLE UP

Gobble is the sound a turkey makes, because people say that's what it sounds like – *gobblegobblegobble*... On the other hand, "to gobble something up" means to eat it very quickly.

Kevin gobbled up the pizza before his brother could have any.

TO EAT LIKE A BIRD

This means to not eat very much, although it's not a very accurate expression because birds eat around 35% of their weight every day.

Sally is much too thin. She eats like a bird.



TO TALK TURKEY

To "talk turkey" means to discuss something in a serious way, or to get down to business. It's an old expression, but its meaning has changed. It used to be friendly talk, perhaps over the Thanksgiving turkey.

Gentlemen, enough of this small talk, let's get the meeting started and talk turkey.

TO QUIT COLD TURKEY

No, this has nothing to do with the leftovers after Thanksgiving (though after three days of cold turkey, you might be ready to quit). It means to stop a habit all at once instead of a little bit at a time. It is usually used for people who quit smoking or other addictive activities.

Susie: Did you hear that Jim quit Netflix cold turkey?

Sara: No way! My dad quit smoking cold turkey, but that's easy in comparison.

