



# THANKSGIVING

**Lesson Length:** 1.25 hours + Extension Activity

**Vocabulary & Expressions:** Vocabulary related to being thankful

**Language/Culture Point:** Words with the base 'thank'

**Objective:** Students will be able to talk about the things they are thankful for in their lives

**Materials:** Paper, authentic materials or pictures as necessary



## STEP 1: ACTIVATE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brainstorming</li><li>- Graphic Organizers</li><li>- Mind Mapping</li></ul>

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Write the word 'Thanksgiving' on the board and draw a circle around it. Ask students to brainstorm words they associate with 'Thanksgiving'.
2. Conduct a Mind Mapping activity by drawing spokes out from the Thanksgiving circle and add students' words to the spokes, or give students markers and have them come to the board to add their own words.
3. Discuss the words on the board and clarify any words as necessary.

*For a more advanced class, you can extend the activity by asking students to write sentences using one or more of the words on the board. For a beginning level class, students can draw pictures rather than write words on the board.*

## STEP 2: MINI-PRESENTATION WITH PROMPT

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Items/pictures related to the Thanksgiving holiday and/or your family's traditions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Teaching with PowerPoint or Chalk Talk</li><li>- Authentic Materials</li></ul>



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## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Give a presentation to the class on Thanksgiving. You may choose to use a PowerPoint or Chalk Talk. You could talk about your family's traditions or keep it general to American culture. Use pictures and realia, such as Thanksgiving decorations and recipes, to enhance your presentation. *In your presentation, highlight the idea of giving thanks for the things we are grateful for in our lives. This is the focus of later parts of the lesson.*

## STEP 3: DISCUSSION AND COMPREHENSION CHECK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes	- Varies	- Word Sorts

## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Based on your presentation, in groups, have students do a Word Sort, sorting items into 2 categories - things related to Thanksgiving and things not related to Thanksgiving. You can ask students to sort authentic materials, photos, drawings, or words
2. Review any material that is unclear to students.

## STEP 4: HIGHLIGHT LESSON FOCUS AND MODEL TASK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes		- Graphic Organizers

## TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Tell students we use the word 'thankful' when we talk about things we are happy to have in our lives.
2. Write the phrase 'I am thankful for \_\_\_.' on the board. Fill in the blank with different vocabulary words familiar to students and practice the phrase with students a number of times using echo and choral reading.
3. Draw a grid with 2 columns: Name and Thankful For.
4. Tell students about the things you are thankful for in your life continuing to model the phrase "I am thankful for \_\_\_." As you tell students about the things you are thankful for, fill in the grid on the board. Leave plenty of room on the grid because you'll be using it again later in the lesson.



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*For a low-level class, you may also want to draw pictures or use photos.*

## STEP 5: GUIDED PRACTICE

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes		- Graphic Organizers

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Tell students you want to know what they are thankful for. Draw a line on the grid under your answers and ask a strong student in the class what he/she is thankful for. Guide the student in using the phrase 'I am thankful for \_\_\_.' Add the answers to the grid.

## STEP 6: PAIR OR SMALL GROUP WORK

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
15 minutes	- Paper	- Question Asking and Answering

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Tell students it's their turn to tell a partner what they are thankful for. Give each student a blank piece of paper and have them draw the grid.
2. Pair students up and ask them to talk to their partner and fill in the grid. Remind them to be sure to listen carefully and record their partner's answers because they will have to tell the class what their partner is thankful for.
3. Circulate as students complete the activity, clarifying and helping pairs with any vocabulary words as necessary.
4. After students have completed the activity, bring them back together as a full class. Tell them they're now going to tell the class what their partner is thankful for. Write "\_\_\_ is thankful for \_\_\_." on the board. Practice the phrase with the class.
5. Ask a few strong students to introduce their partner and tell what their partner is thankful for. Depending on the level of your students, you can fill in the grid on the board or you can ask students to do this. Tell the students to pay attention because they will need to know the information on the board about their classmates later.



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6. Once information from all students has been presented and added to the board, lead a discussion of similarities and differences between the things students are thankful for.

## STEP 7: HIGHLIGHT HOW ENGLISH WORKS

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
10 minutes		

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Write the words 'Thanksgiving' and 'thankful' on the board. Ask students what the two words have in common and underline 'thank' in both words as they give you the answer.
2. Tell students there are a lot of words in English that are similar and are related. These words share some of the same letters or base, like 'thank' in this example. Usually these words also share similar meanings. Ask students why they think the word 'thank' is part of the word 'Thanksgiving'.
3. Brainstorm other words that contain the word 'thank'. Examples are 'thanks', 'thank you', 'thanking', 'thankfully', 'thanked', 'thankless', etc. You may wish to extend the activity by talking about other groups of related words - ex. work, worked, working, workplace, network, autoworker, etc.

## STEP 8: QUICK CHECK AND REVIEW

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
5 minutes		- Line Up

### TEACHING ACTIVITY

1. Give students a few minutes to study the information on the grid on the board. Then cover up or erase the grid.
2. Ask students to line themselves up alphabetically according to their first name. Have students turn and look at the person who is to their right. Go down the line having each student tell one thing the person to their right is thankful for based on the grid. Remind them to use the phrase "\_\_\_ is thankful for \_\_\_." from the board. If they can't remember what the person to their right is thankful for, they can ask their classmates for help.



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## EXTENSION ACTIVITY: THANKSGIVING

Time Frame	Materials	Teaching Strategies
Varies	- Varies	- Varies

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #1

Ask students to talk about similar holidays in their native countries and compare the celebrations from country to country.

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #2

Have students bring in family recipes from home and make a Thanksgiving Cookbook.

### TEACHING ACTIVITY #3

Follow up *Lesson 6.2 - Running Errands in the City* with a lesson on running errands in preparation for Thanksgiving or another family celebration.