

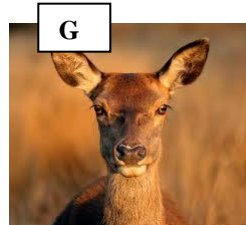
## Around English – activities sheet

# Happy Thanksgiving!

### STARTING OFF

1. Match the pictures to the correct food.

1. fruit
2. pumpkin
3. pie
4. berries
5. lobster
6. turkey
7. vegetables
8. gravy
9. venison



## Around English – activities sheet

### BEFORE YOU READ

1. Look at this letter and choose the correct words to complete it

Dear Peter,

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you like to come to our house 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving this year?  
We are having a traditional dinner 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday evening and Friday is a holiday 4. \_\_\_\_\_ you can stay for four days 5. \_\_\_\_\_ you want.

Please 6. \_\_\_\_\_ me know as 7. \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.

Brad

- |               |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1. a) Do      | b) Would | c) Can   |
| 2. a) from    | b) with  | c) for   |
| 3. a) on      | b) at    | c) in    |
| 4. a) because | b) so    | c) but   |
| 5. a) when    | b) if    | c) that  |
| 6. a) let     | b) tell  | c) make  |
| 7. a) near    | b) soon  | c) close |

2. Answer these questions about the invitation.

1. Whose family is having the Thanksgiving dinner?
2. Who are they inviting?
3. When is the dinner?
4. How long can Peter stay for?
5. When should Peter tell them if he is coming?

3. Now complete Peter's reply with one word in each gap.

*Dear Brad,*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you for the invitation. It's very kind  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you. I 3. \_\_\_\_\_ love to come  
to stay with you. I've 4. \_\_\_\_\_ eaten  
Thanksgiving dinner before so it will be very exciting.  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ time should I arrive? 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
you want me 7. \_\_\_\_\_ bring anything? I don't  
know much 8. \_\_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving? Do you  
give each 9. \_\_\_\_\_ presents like at Christmas?  
Thanks again.

See 10. \_\_\_\_\_ soon,  
*Peter*

## Around English – activities sheet

### READING

1. Read a letter from Peter to a friend in England and answer the questions. Use full sentences in your answers.

Where is Peter living in the USA?

He is living in Chicago.

1. What meat did he eat at Thanksgiving?

---

2. What did he drink?

---

3. Why didn't he have lobster?

---

4. Who watched the American football on TV?

---

5. Why didn't Peter watch the football?

---

6. What did he do instead?

---

7. What did Peter do on the day after Thanksgiving?

---

8. When did Peter leave his friend's house?

---

9. How long did it take him to get home?

---

10. When will Peter be back in England?

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## Around English – activities sheet

### SPEAKING

#### A

1. Have you ever eaten turkey?
2. Have you ever eaten goose?

**If yes: Where? When? / you like it? What / eat with it?**

**If no: / you want to? Why/why not?**

3. Have you ever watched American football?
4. Have you ever watched cricket?

**If yes: Where? When? / interesting or boring? Why?**

**If no: / you want to? Why/why not?**

5. Have you ever travelled a long distance by car?
6. Have you ever travelled a long distance by train?

**If yes: Where / to? How long? / you stop anywhere on the way? How / you feel?**

**If no: What's the longest / ?**

7. Have you ever celebrated Thanksgiving?

**If yes: Where? When? What / eat? What / do?**

8. What's your favourite celebration? Why?

#### B

1. Have you ever eaten venison?
2. Have you ever eaten pumpkin?

**If yes: Where? When? / you like it? What / eat with it?**

**If no: / you want to? Why/why not?**

3. Have you ever watched baseball?
4. Have you ever watched rugby?

**If yes: Where? When? / interesting or boring? Why?**

**If no: / you want to? Why/why not?**

5. Have you ever travelled a long distance by bus?
6. Have you ever travelled a long distance by plane?

**If yes: Where / to? How long? / you stop anywhere on the way? How / you feel?**

**If no: What's the longest / ?**

7. Have you ever celebrated English Christmas?

**If yes: Where? When? What / eat? What / do?**

8. What's your favourite celebration? Why?



## Around English – activities sheet

### POSSIBLE FOLLOW UP – WRITING

1. Imagine that you are an English person who has just spent time with a family in a different country at a special occasion. Write a letter to your family or friend back home telling them all about it.

- *Christmas*
- *November 1<sup>st</sup>*
- *Easter breakfast*
- *a wedding*

## Around English – activities sheet

### PHOTOCOPIABLE MATERIAL

<p><b>1A</b>            It is your birthday</p> <p>Telephone your friend to invite him/her (when? where?)</p> <p>Tell him/her what will happen at the birthday (music – food – disco - what?) and if there is anything special he/she should wear (fancy dress? Smart clothes?)</p> <p>Answer any other questions he/she might have.</p>	<p><b>1B</b> Your friend has phoned you to invite you to his / her birthday</p> <p>Listen to what he/she has to say and then ask about</p> <p>a present / any other things to bring</p> <p>Thank him/her for the invitation before saying goodbye</p>
<p><b>2A</b>            It is your brother's wedding</p> <p>Telephone your friend to invite him/her (when? where?)</p> <p>Tell him/her what to wear (what?) and how you will get to the wedding and home again (how?)</p> <p>Answer any other questions he/she might have.</p>	<p><b>2B</b> Your friend has phoned you to invite you to his / her brother's wedding</p> <p>Listen to what he/she has to say and then ask about</p> <p>a present / who else is going</p> <p>Thank him/her for the invitation before saying goodbye</p>
<p><b>3A</b> It is a special occasion (what?) and your family is having a traditional dinner (what?)</p> <p>A friend from a different country is staying in your town and you know he/she will be alone on that day. Telephone him/her to invite him to the meal. Tell him/her all about it.</p> <p>Answer any other questions he/she might have.</p>	<p><b>3B</b> Your friend has phoned you to invite you to a special meal</p> <p>Listen to what he/she has to say and then ask about</p> <p>any things to bring / what to wear</p> <p>Thank him/her for the invitation before saying goodbye</p>
<p><b>4A</b> Your family are going to visit a relation who lives outside the town where you live (who? where?)</p> <p>Invite your friend to come with you. Tell him/her all about it (when?) How you will get there? (how?) Things you can do there (what?)</p> <p>Answer any other questions he/she might have.</p>	<p><b>4B</b> Your friend has phoned you to invite you for a weekend away</p> <p>Listen to what he/she has to say and then ask about</p> <p>any things to bring / clothes to wear</p> <p>Thank him/her for the invitation before saying goodbye</p>

**Around English – activities sheet**

1st December 2010

Dear Lisa,

I'm having a great time here in Chicago. Last week, I went to stay with a friend for Thanksgiving. It was great. They had a big dinner. We had roast turkey and venison with lots of vegetables and gravy. Then we had pumpkin pie with ice-cream and, after all that, some cakes that his grandmother made. Everything was delicious and we had beautiful juice made from local fruit and berries. Some people also eat fish and seafood like lobsters but my friend's family aren't keen on seafood.

After eating, we watched TV. There's always a big American football match on the television on Thanksgiving so the whole family sat down to watch it. It was interesting for a few minutes but I didn't really understand the rules and I got a bit bored so I read a book.

The next day, Friday, was a holiday for most people and it is traditionally the first day of Christmas shopping. The town centre was packed but it was a really friendly time. There were people playing music in the streets and in the malls and everywhere was decorated with lights. I managed to get most of my Christmas shopping done and we also had lots of nice food while we were walking round.

I stayed for the weekend and got the bus back to Chicago on Sunday evening. It was a ten hour ride but a lot cheaper than flying. I arrived back early on Monday morning and had to go to school at 9 o'clock.

I hope you're OK, I'll be back in England just before Christmas for another turkey dinner!

See you soon  
Peter.



## Around English – activities sheet

# Happy Thanksgiving!

### STARTING OFF

1. This introduces all the food vocabulary that students will encounter in the reading, apart from ice-cream which is assumed to be known. Some of the vocabulary should be familiar, such as fruit. Other words may be new e.g. berries, pie.

Allow students time to match as many as they can and then go through the meanings. (Pie can be sweet or savoury, the pie is made of flour, butter/margarine/lard and water and cooked in the oven until hard. Venison is meat from a deer.)

**Answers: 1I 2C 3H 4A 5F 6B 7D 8E 9G**

### BEFORE YOU READ

The following three exercises lead into the reading and also give students useful exam practice. They also introduce some useful phrases for the communication task later on when they have to invite each other to different events.

1. Before giving the students the exercises, introduce the situation. Tell the students that Peter is an English boy who is living in the USA at the moment. He has an American friend called Brad who has invited him to Thanksgiving dinner. Explain or elicit that this is a dinner which takes place on the third Thursday of November and was first celebrated in 1621 when settlers from Britain and Europe gave thanks for their first harvest and for having survived for a year in their new home.

The first exercise is a multiple choice gap fill using an invitation. There are some useful phrases here such as 'Would you like...' '..on Thursday' '...let me know as soon as possible' After going through the answers, it might be useful for students to make a note of these phrases in their notebooks.

**Answers: 1b 2c 3a 4b 5b 6a 7b**

2. This exercise makes sure that the students fully understand the invitation in exercise 2. The main reading is also a comprehension with full sentence answers so, here, the students could just write one word answers to the questions or even do the exercise as a whole class orally.

**Answers: 1. Brad's 2. Peter 3. on Thursday evening 4. Four days / until the end of the weekend 5. as soon as possible**

3. The final activity here is an open cloze gap fill of Peter's reply to the invitation. As in exercise 2, it may be useful to focus on phrases from the letter once the students have finished the activity. Eg Thank you for..., It's very kind of you...Do you want me to... etc

**Answers: 1. Thank 2. of 3. would 4. never 5. What 6. Do 7. to 8. about 9. other 10. you**

### READING

1. There is no 'first reading' here as there has already been a lot of build up to the task and students should be well-prepared about what they are going to be reading about. You could



## Around English – activities sheet

re-elicite what has happened in the invitation and response and tell the students that Peter is now writing to someone in England after the Thanksgiving meal to tell them all about it.

Look at the example answer with the students and make sure they understand that you want full sentences. You could then elicit ideas of what the answer to the first question might be making sure the students use full sentences e.g. He ate goose.

**Answers: (suggested – students might not word them exactly the same) 1. He ate turkey and venison. 2. He drank juice made from fruit and berries. 3. He didn't eat lobster because Brad's family aren't keen on seafood. 4. The whole family watched the football. 5. He didn't understand the rules and he found it boring. 6. He read a book. 7. He went shopping. 8. Peter left Brad's house on Sunday evening. 9. It took him ten hours to get home. 10. He will be back in England for Christmas.**

### SPEAKING

1. Make sure that students know when to use the Present perfect and when to use the Past simple. Elicit or tell the students that we often use the present perfect to ask people if they have ever done something and, if they say that they have, we use the past simple to ask follow up questions such as 'When did it happen?' 'Did you enjoy it?' etc. If you feel the class need practise, give them a few examples questions on the board: Have you ever been to Italy? Have you ever broken your arm? Ask the students and, if someone answers 'yes' elicit questions from other students about when/where/how etc.

When the students are ready, put them into pairs and tell them that they are going to ask and answer questions. Hand out the questions and set a time limit for the activity. When finished, elicit questions and answers from different pairs to see how well they did the activity. Make sure the question forms students use are correct. If not, try to get the students to correct themselves or peer correct.

### POSSIBLE FOLLOW UP - WRITING

1. This would make a useful homework activity. Elicit some local celebrations from the student's own country – there are some examples given but students may be able to think of more. They then imagine that they have been to one of these celebrations but that they are English and experiencing this for the first time. It's therefore important for the students to think about what the English person might find strange. They then write the letter using Peter's letter to Lisa as an example.

### PHOTOCOPIABLE MATERIAL

1. This is a pairwork activity. There are four situations. Put the students into pairs and give one student the role of inviter and the other the role of being invited. Hand out one situation card to each pair and let them read the instructions. The inviter then 'telephones' the other student and invites them. The other student reacts and asks questions as prompted. When finished, hand out a second role card to each pair and give them different roles so that the student who did the inviting before is now being invited.

If the activity works well, the students can repeat the process with the other two situations. Once the students have finished, nominate pairs to act out one of the situations in front of the class.

**Around English – activities sheet****TEXT**

1st December 2010

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