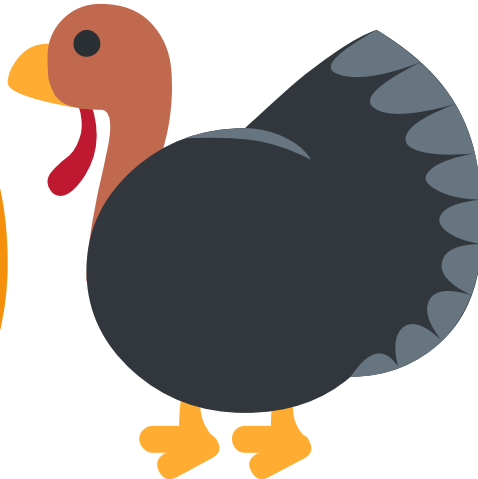




Speak Clear, Smile Big

# ***Holiday Accents***

A lesson on second language acquisition





## Let's Start!

In this activity, you will learn about American holidays. You will also practice saying English sounds. You will say words clearly and have fun learning.

- **Accent:** The way someone says words based on where they are from.
  - For example, someone from Texas might have a different accent than someone from New York.
- **Pronunciation:** How to say words correctly.
  - Listen to the teacher carefully to learn the right *pronunciation* of new words.
- **Consonants:** Letters that are not vowels (a, e, i, o, u).
  - The letters b, c, d, and f are *consonants*.



### Comprehension Tips

Read each sentence carefully. Think about what each word means. Ask questions if you are not sure.



## Read the Story

Read the passages below, while reading, think about the new words and how to pronounce them.

### Lesson 1: Halloween Horrors

Halloween is on October 31. In America, people carve pumpkins. They make *jack-o'-lanterns*. People dress in costumes. They go *trick-or-treating* to get candy. Some people visit haunted houses. It can be a scary, but fun, night.

Listen to the /r/ and // sounds. Practice words like *lantern* and *trick*. Some words may sound alike. For example, *light* and *right* can be tricky. Try saying this: "Little *lanterns* light the road."

In Taiwan, there is a Ghost Month. People honor their ancestors. Like Halloween, it is a time for spirits. Do you see any similarities?

### Lesson 2: Thanksgiving Thanks

Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a time to be *thankful*. It started in 1621. The Pilgrims and Native Americans had a feast. Now, families gather for turkey and pie.

Practice the /th/ sound. Say words like *thank* and *this*. Some people say /s/ or /f/ instead. A fun idea is to make a *thankful* turkey. Write what you are *thankful* for on the feathers.

Many families gather in Taiwan for the Mid-Autumn Festival. Thanksgiving is also a time for family. What are you *thankful* for?

Lesson 3: Christmas Cheer

Christmas is on December 25. People decorate trees. They give *gifts*. Santa Claus brings presents. Christmas comes from Christian traditions. But, many people celebrate it now.

Remember to say the final sounds in words. Do not drop the /t/ in *gift*. Say *Merry Christmas* with excitement. Are you excited for Christmas?



To the teacher

Check the given text to make sure it is accurate and right for your class activity.



Learn Key Words

Explore these important words from the text. Understand their meaning and connect them to the topic.

| Word              | Meaning   | My Example                                  |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Jack-o'-lanterns  | Pumpkins carved with faces and lights inside.     | <i>My jack-o'-lantern had a scary face.</i> |
|                   | <i>Write the meaning here.</i>                    | <i>Write your example here.</i>             |
| Trick-or-treating | Going door to door on Halloween to ask for candy. |   |
|                   |   |   |
| Thankful          | Feeling or showing thanks.                        |   |
|                   |   |   |
| Gifts             | Presents given on special occasions.              |   |
|                   |   |   |



Answer the Questions

Answer the questions below using what you learned from the reading.

| Question   | Response  |
|--|---|
| Why do people carve pumpkins for Halloween?      | People carve pumpkins to make jack-o'-lanterns. These are used to ward off spirits. |
|  | <i>Write your answer here.</i>  |
| Why is Thanksgiving celebrated?                  |   |
|  |   |
| Why do people give gifts at Christmas?           |   |
|  |   |
| Why is it important to say final sounds clearly? |   |
|  |   |
| Why are some sounds hard to say in English?      |   |
|  |   |

## What If?

Create a 'What if...' question about the text. Ask a classmate to answer it.

| What If?   | Response   |
|--|--|
| What if Halloween was celebrated in summer?                      | Then, people might wear lighter costumes. They could have outdoor parties more easily. |
| [On a separate piece of paper, add your hypothetical What if...] | [Class shares "what if" ideas.]  |



### To the student

Keep practicing your English. You are doing Amazing!!!



## Think About It

Answer the following questions. Reflect on what you learned.

How did learning about holidays help you with English sounds?

*Write your answer here.*

What was the hardest sound to say? Why?

How can you keep practicing these sounds in the future?