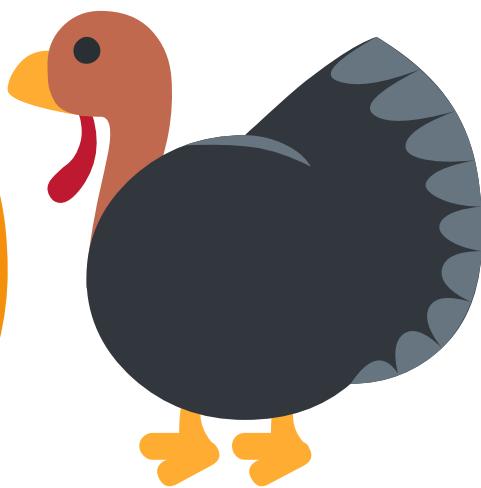




Speak Clear, Smile Big

# 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 /l/ 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?