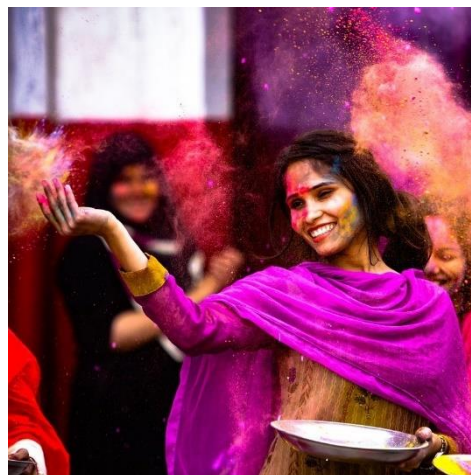


Holidays around the World

Warm Up

- What are your favourite holidays and why?
- Can you describe a holiday tradition from your country?
- Are there any holiday traditions you find annoying or confusing?
- What do you like to do on your birthday?
- Do you like to travel when you have a holiday, or have a “staycation”?
- When was the last time you spent a holiday with friends or family? What did you do together?



1. Match the holiday in the box with the tradition below.

Easter *a)*

Christmas *d)*

Hanuka *c)*

Chinese New Year *e)*

St Patrick's Day *b)*

Diwali *f)*

a) On this day, children get chocolate eggs. Some families hide chocolate eggs around their house and garden so the children can have a “chocolate egg hunt.”

b) This is often seen as a day to celebrate Irish culture. People usually wear green clothes, and often drink quite a lot of beer.

c) This is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated by lighting special candles, giving friends and family coins made of chocolate, and eating lots of fried food.

d) This is the most commonly celebrated public holiday in the world. On this day, people give family and friends gifts, eat and drink together, and put trees in their houses.

e) Many people celebrate this day by giving each other red envelopes filled with money, cleaning their houses, and lighting firecrackers.

f) This is a holiday that lasts five days. In this time, it is traditional to wear light, warm colours on this holiday and use coloured rice or sand to make beautiful art on the ground.

Present Simple and General Truths

Present simple is the tense we use for things that are generally true.

Eg. *“Their father gives them chocolate on Easter.”*


This is not talking about the past, present, or future. This is saying that *in general*, every easter their father gives them chocolate.

When we use present simple, the structure changes with “he”, “she”, and “it.”

Eg. *“I never eat cake on my birthday”* vs *“He never eats cake on his birthday.”*

Study the table below for the structure of present simple.

	Open Question	Closed Question	Positive	Negative
I/you/we/they	What do you eat on your birthday?	Do you celebrate Thanksgiving Day?	I always buy my friends Christmas presents.	We don't cook Turkey on Christmas.
He/she/it	What <i>does</i> he eat on his birthday?	<i>Does</i> John celebrate Thanksgiving Day?	She always buys <i>her</i> friends Christmas presents.	Lisa <i>doesn't</i> cook Turkey on Christmas.

 2. Write a short paragraph about what you usually do on a public holiday of your choice. Try to use present simple.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

 3. Pairwork: listen to your partner read the paragraph they wrote and try to ask a few present simple questions about it.

Eg “Why don't you like to have big parties on your birthday?”

A day off

The sentence "I have Monday off" simply means "I am not working on Monday." We do not usually use this for weekends, more for holidays or other reasons for not working.

Eg. "I had last Wednesday off, I had the flu and couldn't come to work."

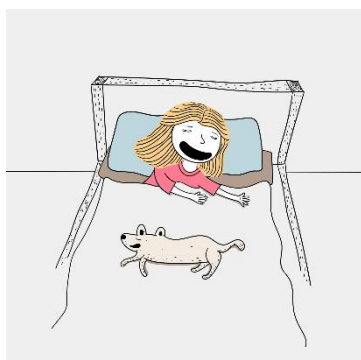
We can also use this to ask for time off.

Eg. "Can I take next week off to see my niece and nephew? They're visiting for a week."



4. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner.

- When was the last time you had a day off? What did you do?
- When is the next time you will have a week or more off work? What will you do?
- If you want to take some time off work or school, who do you have to ask?
- Do you think people in your country have enough time off? Should they have more?
- If you had next week off, what would you do?



Qualifiers

If we want to make an adjective stronger, we can use *very* or *really*. We call these words qualifiers.

Eg. "He is good at football." vs "He is very good at football." The second sentence is stronger.

We can also use *quite* or *pretty* to make an adjective weaker (note: in this context pretty does not mean beautiful).

Eg. "He is good at football." vs "He is quite good at football." the second sentence is weaker.



5. Use *quite, pretty, very, or really* in the first gap and an adjective of your choice in the sentences below. Then complete the sentence with your own words. You can choose an adjective from the box or use your own adjectives.

fun	sweet	exciting	boring	stressful
sad	crazy	scary	romantic	stupid

- a) I think Christmas is e.g. "quite stressful" because e.g. "I have to buy presents for my whole family!"
- b) I think Valentine's Day is because.....
- c) I think Halloween is because.....
- d) My birthday is because.....
- e) In my opinion New Year's Eve is because.....
- f) I think Mother's Day is because.....
- g) Easter is because.....





6. You are going to listen to 3 people talk about their favourite public holidays. The audio contains the words in the box. Match the words to the pictures below.

army/soldiers *b)* grave *h)* water pistol/ water gun *g)* bucket *e)*
 pumpkin *a)* waterproof jacket *f)* biscuit *c)* American Indians *d)*

a)



b)



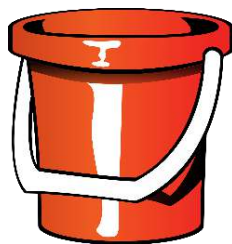
c)



d)



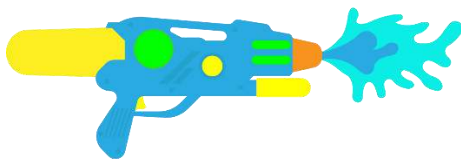
e)



f)



g)



h)



7. Listen to the people talk about their favourite public holidays and tick which box is true.

	Anzac Day	Songkran Day	Thanksgiving Day
A lot of people don't like this holiday		✗	
People usually eat a lot on this holiday			✗
People usually don't have parties or drink	✗		

 8. Listen again and answer the questions.Marie-Louise

- a) When is Anzac Day? *25th of April*
- b) Which two countries have a public holiday on Anzac Day? *Australia and New Zealand*
- c) What are two things they do to show respect for soldiers who died? *A minute of silence and putting flowers on graves*
- d) Why do kids like Anzac Day? *Because they get Anzac biscuits*
- e) Why does Marie-Louise like Anzac Day? *Because it's a great way to remember history and she gets a day off.*

Mark

- a) Why does Mark find Thai public holidays confusing? *Because he is American and doesn't fully understand Thai holidays.*
- b) How long does Songkran festival last? *3 days*
- c) What do people do during the Songkran festival? *Have a huge water fight*
- d) Why do some people hate the festival? *Because they get wet every time they leave the house*
- e) What is Mark's biggest tip for Songkran festival? *Bring a waterproof bag for your phone.*

Cathy

- a) Why does Cathy love Thanksgiving Day? *Because she loves the food*
- b) What is Cathy's family tradition on Thanksgiving Day? *Playing games and watching TV*
- c) Why do a lot of people take a day off after Thanksgiving Day? *Because Thanksgiving Day is always on Thursday, so if you take Friday off you get a four day weekend.*
- d) What did Cathy and her family do last year on Thanksgiving Day? *Went for a long walk with her family and played with their dog.*
- e) What does Cathy think people should remember on Thanksgiving Day? *Native Americans.*

Audio Transcript

Marie-Louise: I'm from Australia, and we have quite a lot of special public holidays. Probably our most famous public holiday is ANZAC day, which we celebrate on the 25th of April every year. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and is a day when we remember the actions of the Australian and New Zealand army in World War 1. More than 60,000 Australians died in World War 1, and it is a big part of our history. Anzac day is a public holiday in Australia and New Zealand, but it's also quite a sad day. Most Australian public holidays are pretty happy days, with lots of parties and celebrations and usually quite a lot of drinking, but we don't do that on Anzac day. On Anzac day we remember the Australians and New Zealanders who died in war, and we have a minute of silence while we remember them. That means that for one minute, nobody in the country makes any sound. This is a sign of respect for those soldiers. We also lay flowers on the graves of the fallen soldiers to show respect. However, Anzac day isn't all sad. We have a traditional biscuit called an Anzac biscuit that we make just for this day, they are a very tasty biscuit, and pretty much everybody likes them, especially children. My kids love Anzac Day, mostly because they get Anzac biscuits. I love ANZAC day because I think it is a great way to remember our history, and to pay respect to the Australians who died in the war. It's also nice to have a day off.

Mark: I'm from America, but I live in Thailand. The Thai public holidays are a lot of fun, but they can be quite confusing for me too, because I'm not from Thailand and I don't understand a lot of their traditions. I think my favourite public holiday is Songkran festival, which is a water festival. So what does a water festival mean? It basically means a huge water fight! The festival lasts from April 13th to April 16th, and for 3 days everybody throws buckets of water at each other, shoots water pistols, and throws water balloons. Where I live the whole city gets involved, and you often end up in water fights with complete strangers! Some people really hate Songkran, because every time you leave your house someone will throw a bucket of water on you, or shoot you with a water gun whether you like it or not. and that can be really annoying if you're not in the mood for a water fight. I have a friend who hates Songkran because last year her phone was destroyed when a man threw a bucket of water on her while she was going to the supermarket. She was very angry. But because of that, my biggest tip for anybody who is new to Songkran festival is to bring a waterproof bag to put your phone in.

Cathy: I'm American, I think my favourite American holiday is Thanksgiving Day, mostly because I just love the food on Thanksgiving Day. My family and I eat a huge turkey, roasted sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. I think I eat more on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year! We also have our own special family tradition of playing games and watching silly TV. We love having time together, which is why we enjoy the holiday so much! Last year we all went for a long walk and had lots of fun playing with our dog.

Thanksgiving is always on a Thursday, and it's a public holiday in America, so a lot of people will take the Friday after thanksgiving off so they can have a four-day weekend. But Thanksgiving isn't just about food and fun, it's also a day to think about American history. We always want to remember that American Indians were here before any of us. We want to make sure to respect them and their history and connect that to Thanksgiving.