

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a very American holiday. It is also (1) \_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving Day. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November every year. It used to be a (2) \_\_\_\_ holiday to give thanks to God. There are two versions of the origins of this holiday. One is thanks for the early (3) \_\_\_\_ arriving in America safely. On December the 4th, 1619, a group of English pioneers arrived at a place called Berkeley Hundred, in Virginia. The group made a promise that the day of their (4) \_\_\_\_ should be a "day of thanksgiving" to God. The second version is the thanks given to Native Americans for teaching the pilgrims how to (5) \_\_\_\_ eels and grow corn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1941, President Roosevelt (6) \_\_\_\_ Thanksgiving a federal holiday. The (7) \_\_\_\_ event of any Thanksgiving is the Thanksgiving dinner. It is traditional to have baked or roasted turkey. This is usually accompanied with mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, (8) \_\_\_\_ vegetables, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Pumpkin pie is the most commonly (9) \_\_\_\_ dessert. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend is one of the busiest times of the year for traveling. It is a four-day or five-day weekend vacation for most schools and colleges, and (10) \_\_\_\_ businesses and government workers get three or four days off. Thanksgiving is also the unofficial signal for Christmas preparations to (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Once Thanksgiving finishes, stores fill their (12) \_\_\_\_ with Christmas goods. It is also a bad time to be a turkey.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1.	(a)	called	(b)	calling	(c)	calls	(d)	call
2.	(a)	religion	(b)	religious	(c)	religiously	(d)	religions
3.	(a)	settlers	(b)	settles	(c)	settled	(d)	settlement
4.	(a)	arrives	(b)	arrived	(c)	arrival	(d)	arriving
5.	(a)	caught	(b)	catches	(c)	catch	(d)	catching
6.	(a)	took	(b)	made	(c)	did	(d)	had
7.	(a)	main	(b)	mainly	(c)	mainline	(d)	mains
8.	(a)	fell	(b)	falling	(c)	fall	(d)	fallen
9.	(a)	eating	(b)	eats	(c)	ate	(d)	eaten
10.	(a)	most	(b)	many	(c)	much	(d)	more
11.	(a)	beginning	(b)	begins	(c)	begin	(d)	began
12.	(a)	elves	(b)	delves	(c)	halves	(d)	shelves

## St. Patrick's Day

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, is an *annually / annual* celebration of the patron saint of Ireland. It is a national holiday in Ireland, and millions of Irish people *every / all* over the world where there are Irish communities *celebrate / celebration*. Celebrations are based on all things Irish and the colour green. City authorities in Chicago even *die / dye* the city's river green for this day. *Many / Much* people wear green clothes, eat Irish food and drink the Irish drink Guinness, which many bars also try and dye green. There are also traditional St Patrick's Day parades. The one in Dublin is *spread / spreading* over five days and attracts half a million people. The New York parade is the *large / largest*, with two million spectators. Many people with no Irish connections celebrate and declare themselves Irish *for / by* a day.

Saint Patrick was a Christian *mission / missionary*. Some scholars say he was born in England, while others *belief / believe* he was Italian. Most agree he lived in the fifth century. When he was sixteen, he was captured and taken as a *slavery / slave* to Ireland. He lived as a slave for six years before escaping. He joined the church to *train / trained* as a priest and became a missionary in the north and west of Ireland. Legend has it that Patrick *drove / driven* all the snakes out of Ireland. There are many other legends about Patrick that have *cement / cemented* him as a key part of Irish culture. March 17 is believed to be the date of his death. Unlike *other / another* saints, Patrick was never canonized by a Pope, although most Christian churches *list / listing* him as a "Saint in Heaven".

## Guy Fawkes Night

Guy Fawkes Night \_\_\_\_\_ celebration. It celebrates a failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament (that's where Big Ben is) in London. This was probably \_\_\_\_\_ examples of terrorism, only it didn't work. It all happened on November the fifth, 1605. A group of Catholics who were \_\_\_\_\_ Protestant rulers wanted to bring the government down. Their leader was a man called Guy Fawkes \_\_\_\_\_ called the Gunpowder Plot. Fortunately, \_\_\_\_\_ saw Guy Fawkes and his followers with the gunpowder. Guy Fawkes was arrested. \_\_\_\_\_ bonfire and burned to death. In Britain and former British colonies, this day is also called Bonfire Night.

Bonfire Night is perhaps \_\_\_\_\_ celebration in Britain. Unfortunately, it is in winter and takes \_\_\_\_\_. You have to brave the cold, but it is a happy occasion. Every town and village puts on a fireworks display. There is usually \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the town. People gather at it to watch the fireworks and eat traditional Guy Fawkes Night food. Baked potatoes and toffee apples are the most popular treats. There is \_\_\_\_\_ guy on the bonfire to represent the real

one that died 400 years ago. Many families have smaller celebrations and will \_\_\_\_\_, private fireworks display in their garden. There are many warnings to be careful because every year, children are injured in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Day of Independence

Independence Day in the United States is also (1) \_\_\_\_ as the Fourth of July. It is a national holiday that commemorates the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This was the day the USA was (2) \_\_\_\_ and became independent from Great Britain. The terms "Independence Day" and the "Fourth of July" are a well-known (3) \_\_\_\_ of the USA's cultural language. People celebrate with national pride. There are fireworks, parades, sporting events and lots more. It is one of the biggest days on (4) \_\_\_\_ holiday calendar. Politicians (5) \_\_\_\_ speeches celebrating America's history and traditions. In particular, attention turns to Thomas Jefferson's speech that (6) \_\_\_\_ the United States of America as an independent nation.

Independence Day is a red, white and blue affair. The whole of the country (7) \_\_\_\_ American flags and banners. There are many festivals that enact famous events from America's history. It is also a day when the nation (8) \_\_\_\_ outdoors. Picnics and barbecues with family and friends are the most popular ways to celebrate. In the evening, there are thousands of fireworks (9) \_\_\_\_ across the country. One of the most popular is the Macy's department store show (10) \_\_\_\_ New York's East River. This is televised nationwide by the NBC TV channel. Also in New York, you can witness the Hot Dog Eating Contest on Coney Island. Indeed, American food is of (11) \_\_\_\_ a big part of the day and millions of hot dogs, burgers and pizzas are (12) \_\_\_\_.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1.	(a)	called	(b)	named	(c)	known	(d)	said
2.	(a)	birth	(b)	born	(c)	birthing	(d)	burn
3.	(a)	part	(b)	partner	(c)	partnered	(d)	party
4.	(a)	America's	(b)	American	(c)	Americas	(d)	Americas'
5.	(a)	fake	(b)	take	(c)	make	(d)	rake
6.	(a)	declaration	(b)	declares	(c)	declaring	(d)	declared
7.	(a)	displaying	(b)	display	(c)	displayed	(d)	displays
8.	(a)	does	(b)	has	(c)	gets	(d)	takes
9.	(a)	display	(b)	displays	(c)	displaying	(d)	displayed
10.	(a)	on	(b)	under	(c)	in	(d)	with
11.	(a)	because	(b)	course	(c)	cause	(d)	case
12.	(a)	ate	(b)	eating	(c)	eats	(d)	eaten

## ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day (April 25) is when Australia and New Zealand \_\_\_\_\_ World War I soldiers. ANZAC means Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. These \_\_\_\_\_ halfway across the world in Turkey, where they landed in Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. It \_\_\_\_\_ fighting by Australian and New Zealand forces during the Great War. ANZAC Day is one of the most important holidays in the two countries. Schools and government offices close. The \_\_\_\_\_ in some of the Pacific islands, including Tonga and Samoa. Church services \_\_\_\_\_ every town in Australia and New Zealand. There are also ANZAC Day parades in state capitals, which \_\_\_\_\_.

April 25 is perhaps the most important day in \_\_\_\_\_ Australia and New Zealand. Their soldiers formed the main part of a \_\_\_\_\_ Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey and then Istanbul. Winston Churchill created the plan to help British \_\_\_\_\_ German Army. His idea was that victory in Gallipoli would open up the Black Sea to the British Navy. Churchill said the attack would \_\_\_\_\_ blow to Turkish troops. He was wrong. The \_\_\_\_\_ eight months. At the end of 1915, ANZAC forces were evacuated. Over 8,000 Australian and 2,700 New Zealand soldiers died. Their soldiers were welcomed \_\_\_\_\_ he first ANZAC Day was named in 1916.