



Talking Turkey*

In honor of Thanksgiving, here are some words and idioms related to the holiday. Go over them with your conversation partner. Make up some sentences using these words and idioms.



***to talk turkey** – to talk frankly; to talk serious business

After a few minutes of chatting at the business meeting, the boss told them it was time to **talk turkey**.

to gobble up – to eat something quickly and completely; use up or buy up all of something

The puppy **gobbled up** his food and then he curled up for a nap.
The shoppers **gobbled up** all the sale merchandise in under an hour.

tofurkey—a vegetarian version of turkey, usually made of tofu or seitan
(the word tofurkey is a combination of tofu and turkey)

We don't eat meat, so we always serve **tofurkey** on Thanksgiving.

to be stuffed—to be full and unable to eat anything else

I've already had tofurkey, chestnut stuffing, sweet potatoes, string beans, and three kinds of pie.
I'm stuffed!

food coma—a state of sleepiness that occurs after having eaten too much food

We were planning to go for a walk, but after a delicious Thanksgiving feast and several servings of pumpkin pie, we were all in a **food coma** and decided to take a nap instead.

cold turkey—immediately stop doing something, rather than tapering down gradually

On New Year's Day, she stopped smoking **cold turkey**. She hasn't had a single cigarette since then.

Culture Corner

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving is a national holiday, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. This year, it falls on November 24th. The first Thanksgiving is said to have taken place in Massachusetts in the year 1621. The pilgrims had a good harvest that year and celebrated with a feast. They shared their feast with the Native Americans who had helped them by giving them seeds to grow food and showing them how to survive in an unfamiliar land.

Today Thanksgiving is a holiday of gratitude, celebrating the power of friendship, togetherness, and appreciation for all the good things in our lives.

Thanksgiving is a major holiday in the U.S. Most people have large dinners with their family and friends. Turkey is usually the main course, and it is a symbol of the holiday. It is often filled with stuffing made from bread crumbs, spices, and other ingredients—some people use chestnuts, others use oysters, but everyone seems to have a special family recipe. Sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce are also common dishes at the Thanksgiving feast, along with pumpkin pie for desert.

Many people travel in order to celebrate with loved ones who live out of town. As a result, there is always a lot of traffic on the days before Thanksgiving. In fact, it is one of the busiest travel times of the year.



Conversation Practice

In the fall, apples and pumpkins are in season. What are your favorite seasonal foods? Do you like to cook? Can you describe how to prepare your favorite autumn dish? What are the ingredients? Are they easy to find? Do you need any special equipment to prepare your favorite dish?

Here's a recipe for pumpkin soup. Discuss with your conversation partner how to prepare this recipe. If you try making this soup, let us know how it turns out.

Recipe for Pumpkin Soup

(serves 6)

Ingredients:

- 4 ½ cups chicken stock
- 3 cups pumpkin puree
- ¼ cup and 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- ¾ cup chopped onion
- ¾ clove garlic, minced
- ¾ teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- black pepper (optional)

Directions

1. Heat chicken stock, pumpkin, onion, thyme, garlic, and salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 30 minutes, uncovered.
2. Puree the soup in small batches (1 cup at a time) using a food processor or blender.
3. Return to pan and bring to a boil again. Reduce heat to low and simmer for another 30 minutes, uncovered. Stir in heavy cream. Pour into soup bowls and garnish with fresh parsley. Add pepper to taste.



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