

Family, Food and Football!

What is Thanksgiving about? Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November (November 26th, 2015) and the days around it.

Thanksgiving Thursday

Morning: The turkey goes into the oven³ and the cook prepares a big meal. In some families, each person brings a different dish, so there is a lot of food. 91% of Americans have turkey on Thanksgiving. Turkeys hate Thanksgiving!

Around 10 am: The parades⁴ start. The most famous parade is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. There are lots of marching bands⁵ and floats⁶, and balloons that look like cartoon characters. You can watch it on television.

Around 4 pm: The big Thanksgiving dinner starts. Turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce⁷ and other goodies (= dobrotky) are on the table.

All afternoon: On Thanksgiving, the National Football League (NFL) teams play. There are two or three games.

Everyone is so stuffed⁸ with turkey that they often fall asleep in front of the TV – except the person who has to do the dishes!

Black Friday

On Friday there is more American football. This time the amateur university league teams play. But the biggest event on Friday is not football. It is shopping. The Friday after Thanksgiving is when the Christmas shopping season begins. There are big sales⁹ in every shop. So while the men are home watching football, the ladies are shopping, shopping, shopping! This day is called Black Friday, because all the stores will be "in the black".

*Glossary

Macy's – New York's famous department store (= obchodní dům) to be in the black – to have money in the bank (= být v plusu)

Vocabulary

- 1 flight [flaɪt] – let
- 2 packed with [pekkt] – přeplněný
- 3 oven [ʌv(ə)n] – trouba
- 4 parade [pə'reɪd] – průvod
- 5 marching band [ˈmɑːtʃɪŋ bænd] – pochodová hudba
- 6 float [flaʊt] – alegorický vůz, vůz
- 7 cranberry sauce [ˈkrænb(ə)ri] – brusinková omáčka
- 8 to be stuffed [sʌft] – přepíchný
- 9 sale [seɪl] – výprodej
- 10 harvest [ˈhɑːvɪst] – sklizeň

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Task

Match each Thanksgiving activity to the correct day. Which activities are extra?

WEDNESDAY BEFORE
THANKSGIVING THURSDAY

BLACK FRIDAY

- A Roast a turkey B Pick apples C Travel home
D Shop for Christmas presents E Watch American football on TV
F Go Trick or Treating G Go to the Macy's parade



Scan this QR code to find out more about Thanksgiving and its traditions.