Holiday Food Vocabulary Teacher's Notes – by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Upper Intermediate
Aims: Students revise and extend food vocabulary, specifically food that is served at holiday times. Students also practise giving advice to people about typical holiday problems. The cultural aim of this lesson, like many of the American Vocabulary Lessons, is to give some information about American Thanksgiving.

Warmer
Play hangman with the word Thanksgiving. When students have got the word, ask them to tell you things they know about this holiday. Tell them that this class is going to be about Thanksgiving and food.

Dictagloss
Tell the students they are going to hear a short text about Thanksgiving. Hand out the worksheet. Tell them that they will hear the text twice only, and must not write anything down while they are listening. After you have finished reading it the second time, students write as much as they can remember about Thanksgiving and check with a partner. When they are done, check back a few examples and then re-read the original text.

Dictation text:
Thanksgiving is an American holiday. It falls on the fourth Thursday of November. It is a time when families in American come together. There are two important traditions at Thanksgiving: eating and giving thanks. People often eat a very big meal early in the day – at about 3 or 4 pm. At dinner, people often talk about what good things in their life they are thankful for. Many people in America also do volunteer work at Thanksgiving. They help people who are homeless or hungry. The Friday after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year. Most people have the day off from work, so they begin their shopping for Christmas presents. The stores usually have special sales in order to attract shoppers, and the malls are usually full of people looking for the perfect present...

A Thanksgiving Menu
Now tell students to look at the menu and do the exercise. This Thanksgiving menu is quite an extravagant one, you may not eat like this at Thanksgiving. If you celebrate Thanksgiving, and your typical meal is different, share it with the class.

Answers:
3 kinds of MEAT: sausages, turkey, bacon
5VEGETABLES: corn, mushrooms, potatoes, green beans, squash, lettuce, pumpkin, onion
2 FRUITS: cranberry, apple
2 WAYS of PREPARING FOOD: roast, baked
2 DESSERTs: Ice cream, pie

When you have checked the answers, tell them to work in groups and add more words to each category. Check back answers.

Holiday Foods Questionnaire
This can be done in small groups. People ask and answer the questions related to food and holidays.

Holiday Advice and Follow Up
Ask students in pairs to write a short note back to one or two of the problems listed. Check back some answers and then open it to a group discussion. Has anyone had these problems? Are they typical in your country? An ideal follow up to this vocabulary class, especially if you are American, would be to bring in some Thanksgiving food (a pumpkin pie for instance) and share it with the class!