

Unit 5 Here are the seasons to enjoy.

I. Lead-in

Key

**8-Dragon Boat Festival 1-Christmas 7-Lantern Festival 3-Spring Festival
6-Thanksgiving 4-Valentine's Day 5-Halloween 2-Mid-Autumn Festival**

II. Basic listening practice

1. Script

W: Of all the holidays people celebrate, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, which are the most important to you?

M: Christmas and Easter, because they mark events in Jesus Christ's life: his birth and his escape from a tomb into heaven. The other festivals, I think, are mainly created to increase sales.

Q: How many holidays does the man believe to be important?

2. Script

M: I used to love giving my mother a present on Mother's Day. It always made her cry. Then she'd hug me hard enough to squeeze the breath out of me.

W: Mothers are really no different from anyone else. They love to be loved, that's all.

Q: What was the mother's response to her son's gift?

3. Script

M: Every country has its own unique holidays. There is one exclusive to some British Commonwealth countries like Britain, Australia and Canada. That's Boxing Day.

W: I know. And it's a perfect date for a holiday, being the day after Christmas Day. Apparently it began with the custom of giving the poor boxes of food; thus a boxing day.

Q: What was the origin of Boxing Day?

4. Script

M: I absolutely hate Christmas shopping. I can never figure out what to buy for everyone, so I rush around like an idiot at the last minute, buying junk.

W: Then maybe you shouldn't buy any gifts. Just tell people "Merry Christmas!" instead.

Q: What does the woman mean?

5. Script

M: When all the children come home for Christmas, there won't be enough room for everyone... What shall we do? Maybe some will have to stay in a hotel.

W: I want them all here. We'll make it work. I can hardly wait to see everyone. It doesn't matter if we're a bit squished. We'll be like turkey stuffing.

Q: What does the woman mean?

Key: C A B C C

III. Listening in

Task 1 Expensive holidays

Script

Grace: So, Mark, what are you going to get me for Chinese Valentine's Day-- a holiday for the Cowherd and Girl Weaver to meet?

Mark: Sorry. I've never heard of it. Anyway, we already celebrated Valentine's Day in February. I gave you a bunch of red roses.

Grace: But there's another lover's day in the world. Isn't it wonderful if lovers have more than one lover's day a year?

Mark: Do you mean I have to get you a present for each lover's day?

Grace: Well, you'd better give me a present from time to time if you want to win my heart.

Mark: I gave you a beautiful card on New Year's Day... and a Christmas gift a couple of days before that. Then I invited you to a dinner on the Chinese New Year's Day, that is, the Spring Festival.

Grace: Thank you for that. Nowadays the Chinese Spring Festival is getting popular here. And it's exciting

Mark: But few people here know anything about a foreign lover's day.

Grace: You see, I enjoy celebrating holidays again and again.

Mark: But it's hard on the wallet. I'll end up in the poorhouse at this rate.

Grace: But it's romantic! And don't forget it's only another month before my birthday.

Mark: Your birthday was last month! I already bought you a ring!

Grace: That was my birthday on the Western calendar. Next month, it's my birthday on the lunar calendar!

Questions and key

1. What gift is the woman asking from the man for Chinese Valentine's Day?
D) Not mentioned
2. Which of the following does the woman like?
C) Both A and B
3. What did the man already do for the woman?
D) All of the above.
4. What does the man think about the woman's intention to celebrate holidays again and again?
A) He will become poor.
5. How many times does the woman want to celebrate her birthday?
B) Twice

Task 2 April Fool's Day

Script

On a flight from the West Coast to the East Coast, the lead flight attendant was eager to get in early as her boyfriend, a pilot, was going to have a short stopover at the destination airport. She made a point of telling her fellow crew members about this, Because it was April 1st, April Fool's Day, the day people play tricks on one another, the captain decided to have a little fun.

About an hour before landing, he made an announcement that went like this: "Ladies

and gentlemen, this is the captain speaking. I have a little bit of bad news. There're some thunderstorms at our destination, and they've currently closed the airport. They expect it to reopen in about 30 minutes to an hour. As one might expect, this will result in long delays. As we've come all the way from the West Coast, we don't even have enough fuel to circle until the airport reopens. Therefore, we are going to be diverting to Cleveland, and we should be landing in about 30 minutes. We'll take some fuel there and get you back on your way to our original destination. I'm terribly sorry for the delay. However, we'll get you there just as soon as possible."

It was at this moment that you could hear someone running up to the cockpit. The cockpit door flew open, and sure enough it was the lead flight attendant mumbling something like, "This can't be happening. What shall I do?" As she went on painfully, the captain made another announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, happy April Fool's Day!"

Key:

1.T 2.F 3.T 4.F 5.T

Task 3 What to do for mom?

Script

Young men and women, tomorrow will be Mothers' Day. Some of you are still wondering what to do for your mom. Here's my advice.

Look out for anything that she plans to buy, and buy it if you can afford it. For example, a casual dress or formal office wear. Or, it may be a hair clip with a touch of difference. Check out if she is planning to get a new microwave or a new steam iron, and give it to her if you can afford it.

You can get some ideas by considering what her likes and dislikes are. If she likes cats, how about giving her a pet or something that has a cat's picture on it? But make sure she doesn't find out that you're getting her a present. Let her gift be a pleasant surprise. Definitely spend some time with her, especially if you are not living with her. Make her feel special. For example, you can cook a special dish for the day. You can also throw a little party and invite those who are close to her.

And of course, if she enjoys outings, take a little trip with her. And if possible, take one with your entire family. She'll love it for sure. After all, she is the one who takes care of all of you. A special trip to the countryside could show her how much you care for her. If she is happy, I'm sure you'll feel happy, too.

Key:

**(1) buy (2) office wear (3) likes (4) cats (5) pet (6) time
(7) special dish (8) little party (9) little trip (10) countryside**

V. Let's talk New Year's Day

Script

Woman 1: We're from El Paso, Texas, and I've been waiting here since about 7:30 this morning, and because my mom just celebrated her 71st birthday and where's the best place to celebrate that is here in Times Square.

Man 1: The winter, no matter, the cold, as long as we stay here and say hello and enjoy the party, you know. New York is the center of the universe. It's a chance, maybe, like I said, once in a while, once in a lifetime to do that.

Man 2: This is my dream. I'm from Macon, Georgia and I came up, I always wanted to do new years in New York City. So I decided that, you know, I was able this year and I could do it so, this is my dream I'm realizing, right before me, with the snow.

Man 3: We're from Miami and were here to watch the ball drop.

Woman 2: I'm, I'm actually from Connecticut and I want to come here with my best friend Laura. I knew her from preschool and to celebrate 2010 because it's a big, big year. It's beautiful. So I just want to be around the people and the lights and everything.

Woman 3: We're from Scotland.. and we're standing here until the ball drops. We're out nice and early, prepared for it.

Woman 4: God bless everybody in the world. We need love, a lot of love because there's so much hate in this world, so we need love and I just want to wish everybody a happy New Year!

Key

(1)-e (2)-b (3)-g (4)-d (5)-h (6)a (7)-f (8)-c

VI. Further listening and speaking

Task 1 The Wilsons' Thanksgiving

Script

Thanksgiving is one of Americas most popular holidays. It is a day for expressing thanks for the good things in life. It is also a day for family reunion. On that day many people travel long distances to get together with their families. For many Americans, Thanksgiving is the time when the members of a family gather.

But not everyone can spend Thanksgiving with his or her family. Today we'll introduce you to a couple, Joan and Sandy Wilson, who could not afford to travel long distances to visit their parents. They regretted not being able to celebrate Thanksgiving with all their family members. But soon they met other people who also were separated from their families. So the Wilsons began holding a yearly Thanksgiving dinner for what they called their "extended family". This included people in their community. All the guests brought food to share for Thanksgiving dinner.

The group has grown over the years. To accommodate all the guests, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson now have to add small tables to their large one in the big dining room. At first, many of their friends brought their babies and young children. Now some of the first guests are grandparents.

Like other Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their visitors enjoy a long day of cooking, eating and talking. The traditional meal usually includes a turkey. Other traditional Thanksgiving foods served with turkey are sweet potatoes, cranberries and pumpkin pies

Questions and key

1. What is true of a typical Thanksgiving Day?
A) It is a day for family reunion.
2. Who are included in the "extended family"

- D) People in the neighborhood
3. How many generations of people does the Wilsons party include?
- C) Three.
4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as traditional Thanksgiving food
- B) Roast duck
5. What is the passage mainly about?
- C) A couple who spend Thanksgiving with people other than their family members.

Task 2 Father's Day

Script and key

Father's Day is a fairly new(S1)celebration in Britain compared with Mothers' Day, which has been a(S2)popular festival in the U.K. for a very long time.

The origins of the celebration are (S3)American, and it was inspired by the actions of a man named William Smart. His wife (S4)died giving birth to their sixth child, so he raised six children alone without(S5)remarrying, which was undoubtedly unusual back in those days.

His (S6)daughter, Sonora Dodd, realized when she was an adult what her father had sacrificed for his children. It was in the early (S7)1900s and she was actually at church one day, listening to a sermon on Mother's Day She thought there should also be a Fathers' Day celebration. So (S8)the tradition was born, on the third Sunday every June, close to the anniversary of Sonora's father's death.

Britain took the idea of Father's Day from the American celebration and it has been celebrated officially since the 1970s. What do British people do for Father's Day? Well, most people buy their fathers a card .(s9)The card probably has a nice message on it saying what a great dad their father is. Some people do buy presents as well. Popular gifts for dads are probably ties, chocolates, or socks because these are things that dads can always use even if they don't want them. Some families might do things together to celebrate Father's Day like going for a meal. As a special treat, (S10)British people might give their dad a bit of rest-make him a cup of tea, or even wash his car and mow the lawn.

Task 3 St. Valentine's story

Script

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. He wanted to have a big army, and he expected men to volunteer to join. Seeing many men did not want to leave their wives and families, Claudius had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So he passed a law to forbid any more marriages. I thought it was preposterous! I certainly wasn't going to support that law! I was a priest, and one of my favorite activities was to marry couples. I kept on performing marriage ceremonies, secretly. One night, we heard footsteps and shouts of soldiers outside. It was scary! The couple I was marrying escaped in time, but I was

caught. I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

Then wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day

Key

1. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So he passed a law to forbid any more marriages.

2. He kept on performing marriage ceremonies, secretly.

3. They came to the jail to visit him. They threw flowers and notes up to his window.

4. She was one of those young people and the daughter of the prison guard.

5. Before he was killed, Valentine left the girl a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. He signed, "Love from your valentine." That note started the custom.

Viewing and speaking A famous Christmas market

Script and key

Receiving Christmas presents is always (1) fun, but buying them can be a (2) headache. This is why many Christmas shoppers around Europe are now going to the German city of Nuremberg to visit its famous Christmas market, Christkindlesmarkt.

The 400-year-old market is a child's paradise. Its (3) 150 stalls sell all kinds of toys, gifts, and special foods. A staggering (4) two million people visit the market annually.

The old city and market add a special (5) feeling to Christmas. As one British tourist, Mivart Thomas, explains, "There's something quite, sort of, medieval about the (6) atmosphere here. There are quite a lot of old stalls (7) traditional-looking stalls - and the cathedral in the back ground with (8) lights all around, and just a few minutes ago, the brass band was playing...playing Christmas carols. The whole atmosphere is wonderful."

The market maintains its Old World atmosphere with (9) regulations saying what can and can't be sold. Not surprisingly, the focus is on the (10) family. The market's tourist officer, Gerd Lauterbach, points out that the market's name (11) translates as "Christ child's market, and the idea behind it is to offer presents for (12) children on Christmas. Christmas markets are found in many German cities, but Nuremberg's is the (13) most famous. It gives a very (14) different impression from the one tourists expect, considering the city's Nazi past. And as word of the market (15) spreads around Europe, the market is becoming a tourist center.