

Thanksgiving Lesson

1. Ranking Exercise: Expressions of Gratitude

Rank the following expressions of gratitude from the most heartfelt to the least heartfelt.

- _____ "I can't thank you enough for your kindness."
- _____ "Thanks a lot for everything!"
- _____ "I really appreciate what you've done."
- _____ "Thank you very much."
- _____ "Thanks."

Explain your Number One choice: _____

2. Comparison Chart: Traditional vs. Alternative Thanksgiving Activities

Activity Category	Traditional Thanksgiving Activities	Alternative Thanksgiving Activities
Family Gathering	Large family dinner at home	Small or virtual gatherings with family or friends
Meal Preparation	Cooking a large meal together	Ordering takeout or preparing simple dishes
Recreational Activities	Watching football games, parades	Outdoor activities like hiking, or board games
Expressing Gratitude	Saying what they are thankful for at the dinner table	Writing gratitude letters or volunteering
Shopping	Black Friday preparations, early holiday shopping	Avoiding shopping, focusing on relaxation or hobbies
Cultural Practices	Discussing historical aspects of Thanksgiving	Engaging in personal or non-traditional cultural practices

Questions Relating to the Chart

1. How do traditional family gatherings differ from alternative ways of celebrating Thanksgiving?

2. In what ways might the meal preparation differ between a traditional and an alternative Thanksgiving celebration?

3. Compare the recreational activities people engage in during traditional and alternative Thanksgiving celebrations.

4. Discuss how the act of expressing gratitude might vary in traditional and alternative Thanksgiving settings.

5. How does the approach to shopping around Thanksgiving differ between traditional and alternative celebrations?

6. Consider the cultural practices associated with Thanksgiving. How might these differ between traditional and alternative celebrations?

Answers.**Explanation for the Number 1 Ranking**

The expression "I can't thank you enough for your kindness" is considered the most heartfelt because it emphasizes an overwhelming sense of gratitude that goes beyond simple thanks. The phrase suggests that the speaker feels their words cannot fully express the depth of their appreciation, indicating a strong, sincere emotion.

Example Answers for the Ranking Exercise: Expressions of Gratitude

1. "I can't thank you enough for your kindness."

Explanation: This expression is the most heartfelt because it conveys a deep sense of gratitude that words alone cannot fully express. It implies that the speaker is so grateful that they feel even saying 'thank you' is not enough to show their appreciation.

2. "Thanks a lot for everything!"

- This expression is enthusiastic and broad, indicating a strong sense of gratitude for numerous things.

3. "I really appreciate what you've done."

- This phrase shows sincere appreciation, focusing specifically on the actions of the person being thanked.

4. "Thank you very much."

- A polite and standard expression of gratitude, it is sincere but less emphatic than the others.

5. "Thanks."

- While still polite, this is the least heartfelt expression, as it is quite brief and can sometimes come across as perfunctory or casual.

Example Answers for the Questions

1. Traditional gatherings typically involve large family dinners at home, whereas alternative celebrations might include smaller, possibly virtual, gatherings or spending time with friends.
2. Traditional meal preparation often involves cooking a large, elaborate meal, while alternative celebrations might include ordering takeout or preparing simpler dishes.
3. Traditional activities often include watching football or parades, whereas alternative celebrations might focus on outdoor activities, such as hiking, or playing board games.
4. In traditional settings, people often express gratitude at the dinner table, while alternative celebrations might involve writing gratitude letters or participating in volunteer work.
5. Traditional celebrations may involve preparing for Black Friday and early holiday shopping, while alternative approaches might focus on relaxation and avoiding shopping.
6. Traditional Thanksgiving might include discussions on the historical aspects of the holiday, while alternative celebrations might involve personal or non-traditional cultural practice