

Celebrations

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- appropriate gifts for specific celebrations and special occasions in Canada
- conventions around gift giving and gift opening at parties
- cultural differences in attitudes concerning gender- and age-based activities
- cultural differences in celebrations
- customs associated with celebrations for children
- customs associated with parties (arrival and departure, role of guests and hosts, giving gifts)
- meaning and customs of special days celebrated in Canada (e.g., Mother's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, St. Jean Baptiste Day)

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- compare celebrations in Canada with those of own country or classmates' countries
- confirm or clarify appropriate message choice in greeting card with proficient English speaker
- learn appropriate messages for greeting cards
- learn short polite phrases for accepting and declining invitations
- observe the actions of others at celebrations and ask questions
- read simple published materials about specific social occasions
- rehearse short conventional messages of thanks and congratulations

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Canadian Conversation Book, Book One: Unit 4, "Days, Dates, and Weather"*
- 📖 *Canadian Concepts 2, Second Edition: Unit 3, "Days and Dates"*
- 📖 *Let's Celebrate!*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1999: "Canada Day," "Sweet tradition of Diwali"*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 2001: "Multicultural holidays"*
- 📖 *The ESL Tool Box: Unit 1, "Ask Around"*
- 📖 *The Pizza Tastes Great: Unit 3, "Birthdays"*
- 📖 *When's the Next Canadian Holiday?*
- 📄 sample invitations and greeting cards with written messages inside
- 👂 *CLB Listening/Speaking Resource: Stage I, Social Interaction dialogues 5–6*
- 🌟 Chinese New Year: <http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/cards/cards.htm> and http://123greetings.com/events/chinese_new_year
- 🌟 Ramadan and Eid cards: <http://www.123greetings.com/events/eid>
- 🌟 Yahoo Canada Greetings: <http://greetings.yahoo.ca>
- 🔑 postcards, holidays, enter name of specific holiday (e.g., **Ramadan**)

Celebrations

Topic Outcomes (CLB 2)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- make and respond to simple requests
- give a basic description of a celebration
- identify introductions and basic courtesy formulas
- identify details in a listening text: numbers, dates, time references, places, keywords, short expressions
- generally understand the main point of a short written message or text in a special occasion greeting card, invitation, and postcard
- get information about a celebration from a very basic text of up to seven sentences
- complete an expanded range of greeting cards with minimum required information
- give a basic description of a celebration by answering five to six simple questions in writing

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*Divali, Rosh Hashanah, Chinese New Year, birthday, anniversary, Christmas*)
- dates and times
- expressions for specific celebrations (*Happy Anniversary, Congratulations, Seasons Greetings*)
- articles: definite and indefinite (*a party, the weekend, some people*)
- prepositions of time (*on the weekend, in December, at noon*)
- verb tenses: simple past, present, and future tenses (high-frequency verbs)
- pronunciation: vowel contrasts /ey/ (*birth**day**, ag**e**, tod**ay**, bab**y**, eigh**th***) and /ɛ/ (*se**nd**, se**vent**h, fri**end**, dre**s***)

Sample Tasks

1. Talk to a partner about a popular celebration from own culture.
2. Listen to a conversation about a celebration. Complete sentences by filling in the blanks.
3. Read paragraphs about holidays in Canada. Complete a table with information about names and dates of holidays. Compare with classmates.
4. Answer questions about a recent or upcoming celebration.

Additional Tasks

- **Novice:** Survey the class and word-process a list of celebration dates. Include birthdays, anniversaries, and popular celebrations in Canada and other countries (e.g., May 11, 2003: Mother's Day). Sort the list by date.
Skills: Keyboarding, Select, Sort
- **All Levels:** Go to an electronic postcard site (e.g., <http://greetings.yahoo.ca>). Follow instructions for finding and choosing a birthday card for your instructor. Type the given e-mail addresses. Type an appropriate message to your instructor and send the birthday card.
Skills: Internet Basics, Browsers, URL, Forms, Mouse Skills

Customs & Social Behaviour

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- acceptable behaviour in public places (e.g., lineups, smoking, public displays of affection)
- appropriate topics for small talk conversations
- Canadian concepts regarding time and physical proximity
- common practices for social situations such as visiting someone, ordering in a restaurant, weddings, baby showers, and funerals
- customs surrounding names
- differences between English and French culture
- gender issues in Canada
- initiating and/or responding to small talk conversations with neighbours
- non-verbal communication, such as eye contact, vocal volume, handshaking, and listening signals such as nodding
- telephone etiquette
- titles for addressing people

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- be aware of formal and informal ways of addressing people
- compare social behaviour in Canadian culture with behaviour in other countries
- learn phrases for accepting or declining offers of assistance
- learn polite phrases for getting attention and making requests
- observe the speech, actions, and attire of others
- practice common phrases used in telephone calls
- practice English intonation patterns for questions and requests

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Writing Book, English in Everyday Life, A Teacher's Resource Book, Second Edition*: Unit 3, "Greetings"
- 📖 *Canadian Concepts 2, Second Edition*: Unit 1, "Nice to Meet You"; Unit 2, "People and Places"
- 📖 *The ESL Toolbox*: Unit 3, "Decision Making"; Unit 4, "Culture Checks"; Unit 6, "Out and About"
- 🔗 *CLB Listening/Speaking Resource*: Stage I, Social Interaction dialogues 1–8, Restaurant dialogues 42, 43
- 🌐 ELLIS – Intro – Greetings, Introductions and Goodbyes; Social Situations
- 🌐 Etiquette in other countries: <http://intljobs.about.com/cs/etiquette> (for comparison activities)
- 🌐 Government of Canada Site: <http://www.canada.gc.ca> (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada)
- 🌐 Yahoo! Canada, Society and Culture Directory: http://ca.dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture
- 🌐 Yahoo! Greetings: <http://greetings.yahoo.ca>
- 🔑 postcards, customs, etiquette Canada

Customs & Social Behaviour

Topic Outcomes (CLB 2)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗣️ greet familiar and unfamiliar people; use and respond to courtesy formulas
- 🗣️ respond appropriately to introductions
- 🗣️ indicate communication problems in a number of ways
- 🗣️ give expanded basic personal information
- 👂 identify introductions and basic courtesy formulas
- 👂 identify a range of expressions used to ask for repetition and clarification
- 📖 generally understand the main point of a short written message or text in a special occasion greeting card or invitation
- 📖 get information from a very basic text of up to seven sentences about a custom
- ✍️ complete an expanded range of greeting cards with minimum required information
- ✍️ give a basic description of a custom by filling in blanks in a short five- to six-sentence guided text

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary and expressions, in greeting card messages (*Best wishes, Congratulations, All the best, Get well soon, Hope you have a..., With love, Love always*)
- vocabulary for expressing personal information (*full name, surname, initials*)
- expressions for introductions (*Hi, Nice to meet you, Glad, Pleased, This is...*)
- conventions for addressing an envelope
- yes/no questions
- verb *be*
- pronunciation: word linking (*How are you? Thanks a lot, See you on Monday*)

Sample Tasks

1. Ask classmates questions to complete a chart with information (e.g., married/single, children, siblings, when they came to Canada).
2. Listen to dialogues of people answering personal identification questions. Identify phrases used to ask for repetition and clarification by circling phrases on a worksheet.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Open a document containing a dialogue between a customer and a server in a coffee shop. Locate and change the font colour of statements asking for clarification and repetition. Save, print, and compare your dialogue with classmates.
 - Skills:** Open, Select, Font Color, Save, Print
3. Complete dialogues by matching questions with answers (e.g., *Do you have change for a dollar? – Yes. Here you are*).
4. Choose and complete a greeting card and envelope for a classmate, friend, or family member.

Leisure Activities

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- benefits of participation in leisure activities
- clubs concerned with leisure activities
- costs of activities and low-cost alternatives
- cultural differences in leisure pursuits, including gender-based and age-based activities
- leisure activities for children, such as day camps, swimming lessons, recreation centres
- local and seasonal leisure activities
- local sites and organizations offering cultural or sporting events
- volunteer work as an alternative leisure activity

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- attend leisure shows (e.g., Outdoor Life Show)
- participate in leisure activities to acquire specialized vocabulary and to practice socializing in English
- use leisure activities to develop self-esteem and confidence for language learning
- use picture dictionaries for specialized terminology
- visit tourism bureau, chamber of commerce, public library for information on activities

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Conversation Book 1, Revised Third Edition*: Unit 10, “Leisure”
- 📖 *Interchange 1*: Unit 6, “Do you play tennis?”
- 📖 *The ESL Tool Box*: Unit 1, “Ask Around”; Unit 12, “Summer Holiday”
- 📖 *The Pizza Tastes Great*: Unit 7, “Sports and Fun”
- 📄 continuing education calendars
- 📄 local parks and recreation brochures
- 🚗 local YMCA or YWCA may provide an orientation tour
- 🎯 Tense Buster – Elementary – Simple Present – Negatives, Questions
- 🎯 ELLIS – Intro – Leisure Activities and Social Situations
- 🌐 Active Ontario: <http://www.activeontario.org>
- 🌐 Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation: <http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca> (Sport and Recreation)
- 🌐 Settlement.org: <http://www.settlement.org> (Community and Recreation, Arts and Culture *or* Sports and Recreation)
- 🌐 YMCA Canada: <http://www.ymca.ca> (follow links to local branch’s schedule)
- 🔑 **recreation, leisure Ontario**

Leisure Activities

Topic Outcomes (CLB 2)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗣️ greet familiar and unfamiliar people, use and respond to courtesy formulas
- 🗣️ provide expanded personal information when registering for an activity
- 🗣️ talk about leisure activities one enjoys
- 👂 identify a range of expressions used to make and respond to requests, express warnings
- 👂 identify details in a listening text: name, address, phone number, time references, keywords
- 📖 get information about leisure activities from a table or schedule
- 📖 get information from a short two- to three-sentence notice
- ✍️ fill out a simple eight- to 12-item registration form
- ✍️ give a basic description of own leisure activities by filling in blanks in a short five- to six-sentence guided text or by answering five to six simple questions

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary for sports and hobbies
- vocabulary for expressing personal information (*full name, surname, initials*)
- adverbs of frequency
- questions: wh-, yes/no
- simple present tense
- pronunciation: third person singular voiced, voiceless, and sibilant -s endings (*/z/ lives, /s/ walks, /əz/ matches*)

Sample Tasks

1. Interview a partner about his/her leisure activities during the week by asking questions from a worksheet.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Create a table with columns for each day of the week. Fill out the table with information about your own leisure activities. Print for display.
 - 📖 **Experienced:** Format the table by using the Table Toolbar to shade cells and change the line style on the cell and table borders.
 - Skills:** Keyboarding, Insert Table, Table Toolbar, Borders and Shading, Print
2. Listen to a dialogue of someone registering for lessons. Complete a registration form with the personal information given in the dialogue.
3. Refer to a swimming pool schedule to answer questions.
4. Complete a simple registration form.