

SPRING HOLIDAYS

Vocabulary

holiday – a time of rest from work or school

St. Patrick's Day – a cultural and religious celebration when people wear green color; it is held on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick

saint – a person acknowledged as being holy or virtuous

cabbage – a green vegetable consisting of thick leaves in a spherical shape

dance – to move rhythmically to music, typically following a sequence of steps or moves

emerald – a green precious stone; Ireland is sometimes called the Emerald Isle

Ireland – the common name of the country called the Republic of Ireland

Irish – the nationality of a person from Ireland; from Ireland or relating to it

flag – a rectangular design used as a symbol or emblem of a country or institution and used as decoration during festivities

fiddle – a violin, especially when used to play folk music

harp – a triangular-shaped musical instrument that has many parallel strings that are plucked to make sound

four-leaf clover – a clover leaf with four leaves (instead of the typical three) thought to bring good luck

gold – a precious metal that is yellow in color

legend – a traditional story that is sometimes regarded as historical but is unauthenticated

leprechaun – a small, mischievous creature from Irish folklore

luck – success or failure supposedly brought by chance rather than through your own actions

music – vocal and/or instrumental sounds combined to form harmony

parade – a public procession, especially one celebrating a special day or event

pinch – when you squeeze someone's skin between your index finger and thumb

pot of gold – a large but distant or imaginary reward; it is said that there is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow

rainbow – a large curve of different colours that can appear in the sky when there is both sun and rain

shamrock – a clover-like plant with three leaves, used as the national emblem of Ireland

tradition – the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation

Easter – a Christian holy day in March or April when Christians remember the death of Christ and his return to life

hot-cross bun – a round sweet bread roll with a mark in the shape of a cross on top that is traditionally eaten just before Easter

Easter egg – a chocolate egg bought or given as a present at Easter

Easter bunny – an imaginary rabbit that children believe brings chocolate eggs at Easter

Easter hunt – a game during which decorated eggs or Easter eggs are hidden for children to find

Easter basket – a basket of sweets, usually small chocolate eggs, a chocolate Easter Bunny, or jelly beans, which parents leave in the house for their child to find on Easter morning

the Bible – the holy book of the Christian religion

daffodil – a tall yellow spring flower with a tube-shaped part in the middle

tulip – a brightly colored flower that is shaped like a cup and grows from a bulb in spring

crucifixion – in past times, the act of killing someone by fastening them to a cross and leaving them to die

resurrection – a situation in which something old or forgotten returns or becomes important again

lamb – a young sheep

candy – a sweet food made from sugar or chocolate

chocolate – a sweet brown food that you can eat as a sweet or use in cooking to give foods such as cakes a special sweet taste

chick – a baby bird

April Fool's Day – April 1, a day when people play tricks on each other

Mother's Day – the second Sunday in May appointed for the honoring of mothers

Memorial Day – a national holiday in the US on the last Monday in May to remember soldiers who have died in wars

bank holiday – an official holiday when banks and most businesses are closed

nature – everything in the physical world that is not controlled by humans, such as wild plants and animals, earth and rocks, and the weather

Verbs

to bloom – if a plant or a flower blooms, its flowers appear or open OR to become happier, healthier, or more successful in a way that is very noticeable

to grow – to increase in amount, size, number, or strength

to hatch – if a young bird, insect, etc. hatches, or if it is hatched, it comes out of its egg

to plant – to put plants or seeds in the ground to grow

to return – to go or come back to a place where you were before

to sow – to plant or scatter seeds on a piece of ground

to sprout – to appear suddenly in large numbers

to warm – to make someone or something warm or warmer, or to become warm or warmer

to celebrate – to show that an event or occasion is important by doing something special or enjoyable

to integrate – to become part of a group or society and be accepted by them

to arrange – to organize or make plans for something

to prepare – to make a meal or a substance

to cook – to prepare food for eating

to settle – to go to live in a new place and stay there for a long time

to devote – to use all or most of your time, effort, etc. in order to do something or help someone

Phrases

to be aware of – knowing that something exists or having knowledge or experience of a particular thing

I bet – an expression used to say when you are absolutely sure that something will happen

holiday spirit – the positive feeling people experience while on holiday and during holiday periods

to fall in love with someone – to be very attracted to someone or something and begin to love them

to get along with someone – to have a friendly relationship

to push one's luck – to test the boundaries with risky behavior

to take care of somebody or something – to look after someone or something

Grammar Corner

The word “like” can be used in different contexts.

e.g. I want to do something special. Like baking a cake or making a video by myself (like = for example)

I can't help it, I just like dressing up! (like = to be fond of)

Would you like to buy something like this? (like = resembling)

It's so like Nate! (like = typical of)

In spoken English, we usually use contracted forms, e.g. I'm (instead of *I am*), I don't (instead of *I do not*), we're (instead of *we are*). However, in formal writing, we use the full form.

e.g. I can't believe Ann did that! That's so unlike her.

I didn't get a word of what you've just said.

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Easter

P1: Hey, Jane! Easter is next week. Have you got any plans?

P2: Hello! Not really. To be honest, I am not so aware of Easter traditions. We don't celebrate it in my home country, so I don't know much.

P1: Oh, I forgot that you don't celebrate it. Sorry.

P2: It is OK. Actually, I feel kinda bad that I haven't even learned anything about Easter. I've been living here for a year, but I spent last Easter just eating pizza in my dorm room.

P1: Why don't you spend this Easter with me and my family? It's going to be great!

P2: Can I?

P1: Of course! Don't worry, I don't have a ton of relatives, so it's going to be a small family get-together.

P2: As long as it's not over one hundred people, I'm fine!

P1: Then you're officially invited.

P2: Thank you! Should I bring anything? Like a meal or something like that?

P1: No, my family will take care of everything. If you'd like, you can buy some chocolate candy for my siblings. We'll have an egg hunt for sure.

P2: Egg... hunt?

P1: Yeah, we buy plastic eggs and then fill these with candy. The idea is that these eggs are hidden around the house or yard and kids have to find them. Kids believe that this is an Easter bunny that puts eggs for them to find.

P2: This is so weird!

P1: You should take a look at these creepy Easter pictures people used to take! Some creepy looking bunny and terrified kids beside this... thing. I'm thankful my parents never made me take a picture like that when I was a kid.

P2: This does sound weird!

P1: Yeah. As for the food, the main meal on Easter Day is roast lamb. My mother cooks it every year. You should try it, it is extremely delicious.

P2: Sounds like a fun holiday! I am glad that I can join you this year and feel this holiday spirit.

St. Patrick's Day

P1: Hey, Aidan! What are you doing?

P2: I'm working on a costume for St. Patrick's Day.

P1: Oh, is it already this time of the year?

P2: Yes, so don't forget to bring out your green.

P1: I was always wondering why all the Irish are so obsessed with this holiday.

P2: Well, although the event started as a religious holiday, over time it's become a celebration of our culture. It is impossible not to fall in love this holiday! It is packed with parades, leprechauns, four-leaf clovers, the sounds of harps and fiddles...

P1: And beer.

P2: Well, definitely. It's part of the tradition. And wear green clothes.

P1: What if I won't wear green?

P2: You'll be pinched by leprechauns!

P1: Why would they pinch me?! I did no harm.

P2: Wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns that like to pinch anyone they can see on their way. Plus, green brings you good luck.

P1: I heard these little creatures worn in green have a great sense of humour, so maybe we can get along with them and they won't pinch me.

P2: Well, if you are so brave, you can push your luck and not wear green. If leprechauns don't pinch you, I will.

P1: I will catch one or two myself and make them reveal where they hide their pots of gold.

P2: Sneaky!

P1: Not as sneaky as these tiny fellows.

P2: I will dress like a leprechaun this year.

P1: Whatever. Unless you have a pot of gold, I am not interested.

P2: So should I actually wear a leprechaun's costume or can I just wear a greet T-shirt?

P1: It's up to you. Some people dye their hair green, some put on green makeup.

P2: I will paint a green shamrock on my cheeks then.

P1: Does it mean that I convinced you to join me in St. Patrick's celebration?

P2: Looks like it!

Mother's Day

P1: Kate, I need your advice.

P2: Sure, what's up?

P1: Mother's Day is tomorrow, and I can't choose a present for my mum. I want to do something special this year.

P2: Will you send her a package?

P1: Actually, I want to surprise her with a visit. And a present too.

P2: Aww, that is so sweet of you! She's gonna love it!

P1: You think? Wouldn't it be too unexpected?

P2: What are you talking about? It's your mom, she's always happy to see you!

P1: Yeah. it's just that I've been busy with studies and everything, so I kinda feel guilty since we haven't been having regular phone calls. That's why I want to come home for Mother's Day.

P2: Ahh, I see. Well, if I were you, I'd buy a bouquet of her favorite flowers. It's a nice gesture/

P1: Yes, she likes both growing flowers herself and getting them from others. I will choose yellow daffodils and tulips, I think.

P2: Don't forget a greeting card!

P1: Ah, definitely! She likes the details.

P2: What about a present? Do you have any ideas on what she would possibly like to get?

P1: I thought of creating a short video made of her photos.

P2: That is a great idea! You can also talk to your dad and cook dinner together for such a special occasion.

P1: I could set it up, but I don't wanna tell my dad anything. I know that they don't have secrets from each other, so the next thing you know – my mom is calling me and saying that I don't have to spend money on flights.

P2: This is tricky then.

P1: Exactly. So I'd rather avoid sharing my plans with dad. I'll just order something fancy from our local restaurant, and we'll have dinner together.

P2: So that your mom wouldn't feel obliged to cook.

P1: Yeah. I want to make it a day with 0 responsibilities and tasks for her. Just relaxing and enjoying life.

P2: I'm sure she's gonna love that.