

Mother's Day



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Why are mothers important?
2. Do you think being a mother is difficult? Why or why not?
3. What characteristics do you think mothers need?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. honour (<i>verb</i>) | a) a gift on special occasions, often delicious food |
| ___ 2. celebrate | b) to show respect |
| ___ 3. ancient | c) a person who works for the government or runs for an elected office |
| ___ 4. treat (<i>noun</i>) | d) something people have been doing for many generations |
| ___ 5. tradition | e) related to the whole country |
| ___ 6. servant | f) a large meal that combines breakfast and lunch |
| ___ 7. local | g) related to the place where a person lives |
| ___ 8. politician | h) a person who performs duties at another's home for pay |
| ___ 9. national | i) to acknowledge with joy |
| ___ 10. brunch | j) very old |

Reading

1. Mother's Day is a special day when people **honour** their mothers. Many countries have a special day like this. In the United States and Canada, Mother's Day is always **celebrated** on the second Sunday of May.
2. Mother's Day is not a new holiday. The **ancient** Greeks celebrated the goddess Rhea, who represented motherhood, with flowers, sweet **treats**, and wine. Later, Christians borrowed the **tradition** and celebrated the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the 1600s in England, Mothering Sunday was a special day where **servants** were allowed to leave work and spend the day with their mothers.
3. In America, the idea of Mother's Day came from two different women. In 1872, a woman from Boston named Julia Ward Howe first tried to create Mother's Day. Then, in 1902, Anna Jarvis started a **local** celebration in her town in West Virginia. She wanted the holiday to be celebrated on the day of her own mother's death. She wrote letters to many **politicians**, until eventually, the president of the United States agreed to create a **national** Mother's Day in 1914.
4. The modern version of Mother's Day is not so different from the ancient one. People still celebrate by giving their mothers flowers, as well as cards, chocolates, and presents. It is now also common to go to restaurants, especially for **brunch**. No matter how it is celebrated, Mother's Day is a great opportunity to make mothers feel special.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. Mother's Day is sometimes on a Saturday.
- _____ 2. Christians borrowed the tradition of Mother's Day from the Greeks.
- _____ 3. Mothering Sunday was celebrated in England.
- _____ 4. Julia Ward Howe was from West Virginia.
- _____ 5. Anna Jarvis was friends with the president of the United States.
- _____ 6. Brunch is a tradition from the 1600s.

B. Ask & Answer

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in your notebook.

- 1. When is Mother's Day in the United States?
- 2. Who was Rhea?
- 3. How did Anna Jarvis choose the date for Mother's Day?
- 4. When did the president of the United States create a national Mother's Day?
- 5. How do people celebrate Mother's Day nowadays?

Vocabulary Review

A. Fill in the Blanks

Use a vocabulary word from page 1 to fill in the blanks.
Each word can only be used once. Some words will not be used.

1. The royal family has many _____ that work in the palace.
2. There is a tennis court at my _____ community centre.
3. When my dog behaves well, I give her a _____ .
4. I want to organize a special birthday _____ at a restaurant that serves pancakes.
5. We can't choose a new president until there's a _____ election.
6. Mexicans _____ the Day of the Dead.
7. The Globe Theatre, in London, is _____. It was built in 1598!
8. I will _____ my great-aunt Esther with a beautiful poem.

B. Opposites

Circle the word that means the **opposite** of each vocabulary word below.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. local</p> <p>a) neighbour
b) global
c) ancient</p> | <p>3. ancient</p> <p>a) local
b) modern
c) former</p> | <p>5. servant</p> <p>a) housekeeper
b) employee
c) master</p> |
| <p>2. politician</p> <p>a) governor
b) mayor
c) citizen</p> | <p>4. celebrate</p> <p>a) acknowledge
b) remember
c) ignore</p> | <p>6. honour</p> <p>a) disrespect
b) celebrate
c) represent</p> |

Grammar Review

A. Parts of Speech

Did you know that the word "mother" can be a *noun* and a *verb*?
As a verb, it means *to act like a mother*.

- My sister always **mothers** me when my parents are on vacation.
- Look how our dog **is mothering** the kittens.

The word "mothering" can also be an *adjective*. As an adjective, it means *like a mother would*. A related adjective that means the same thing is "motherly."

- Your dog has a **mothering** instinct.
- My sister is so **motherly** when my parents are on vacation.

B. Practice

Look at the **bold** word in each sentence.
Add check marks (✓) to indicate the word form.

#	Sentence	Noun	Verb	Adjective
1	My mother loves chocolate bars and jelly beans. Those are her favourite treats!			
2	Her servants were so mothering that she didn't miss her real mother.			
3	Don't mother me! I know how to cook brunch.			
4	A local mother is honouring female politicians by baking them cookies.			
5	I'm going to visit my parents. I need some motherly love.			

Discussion

1. Have you ever given somebody flowers? Who did you give them to? Why did you give that person flowers?
2. What is your favourite treat?
3. What are some differences between local and national politics?
4. Are there any unusual traditions in your family? What are they?
5. What food would your family like to eat at a Mother's Day brunch?

Word Combinations

GUESS THE PORTMANTEAU

The word "brunch" is a combination of two other words. Can you guess which ones? If you said "breakfast" and "lunch," you are correct! A word that is formed by combining other words is called a *portmanteau*. Can you think of any others?

#	Words to Combine	Portmanteau
Ex	Breakfast + Lunch	<i>Brunch</i>
1	Hotel + Motor	
2	Situation + Comedy	
3	International + Network	
4	Spoon + Fork	
5	Emotion + Icon	

Listening

 <https://blog.esllibrary.com/2019/04/17/mothers-day-low-int>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. Mother's Day is a special day when people _____ their mothers. Many countries have a _____ day like this. In the United States and Canada, Mother's Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday of May.
2. Mother's Day is not a new holiday. The ancient Greeks celebrated the goddess Rhea, who represented motherhood, with flowers, sweet _____, and wine. Later, Christians borrowed the _____ and celebrated the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the 1600s in England, Mothering Sunday was a special day where servants were allowed to leave work and spend the day with their mothers.
3. In America, the idea of Mother's Day came from two different women. In 1872, a woman from Boston named Julia Ward Howe first tried to create Mother's Day. Then, in 1902, Anna Jarvis started a _____ celebration in her town in West Virginia. She wanted the holiday to be celebrated on the day of her own mother's death. She wrote letters to many politicians, until eventually, the president of the United States agreed to create a _____ Mother's Day in 1914.
4. The modern version of Mother's Day is not so different from the _____ one. People still celebrate by giving their mothers flowers, as well as cards, chocolates, and presents. It is now also common to go to restaurants, especially for _____. No matter how it is celebrated, Mother's Day is a great opportunity to make mothers feel special.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read a short article about Mother's Day. The lesson includes comprehension questions and vocabulary activities. Students learn the term "portmanteau."

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: Mother's Day, tradition, holiday, mothers, families, motherhood, children, celebrations, portmanteau

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Look at the picture and discuss the questions as a class. Answers will vary.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. j | 5. d | 7. g | 9. e |
| 2. i | 4. a | 6. h | 8. c | 10. f |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 7. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

Have your students find the answers in the reading, or play the recording instead.

1. F – It is always on the second Sunday of May.
2. T
3. T
4. F – Julia Ward Howe was from Boston.
5. F – Anna Jarvis wrote to him to ask him to make Mother's Day a national holiday.
6. F – Brunch is a modern tradition.

B. ASK & ANSWER

After reading the passage, put students into pairs and have them practise asking and answering the comprehension questions. Then have students write the answers. Review again orally with the whole class.

1. In the United States and Canada, Mother's Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday of May.
2. Rhea was an ancient Greek goddess who represented motherhood.
3. Anna Jarvis decided the holiday should be celebrated on the day of her own mother's death.
4. The president of the United States agreed to create a national Mother's Day in 1914.
5. People celebrate by giving their mothers flowers, cards, chocolates, and presents. It is also common to go to restaurants (especially for brunch).

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Vocabulary Review

Put students into pairs or small groups. Encourage them to try this exercise without looking back at the words on page 1.

A. FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. servants
2. local
3. treat
4. brunch
5. national
6. celebrate
7. ancient
8. honour

B. OPPOSITES

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. a

Grammar Review

A. PARTS OF SPEECH

Go over the different parts of speech for "mother" as a class. Brainstorm together to come up with more examples.

B. PRACTICE

1. noun
2. adjective
3. verb
4. noun
5. adjective

Discussion

Put students into pairs or small groups and have them discuss these questions. For an extra activity, you could have students plan and present what they would serve at a Mother's Day brunch.

Word Combinations

Go over the meaning of "portmanteau" and challenge your learners to guess the words. Which words are they familiar with?

1. motel
2. sitcom
3. Internet
4. spork
5. emoticon

Listening

1. honour, special
2. treats, tradition
3. local, national
4. ancient, brunch