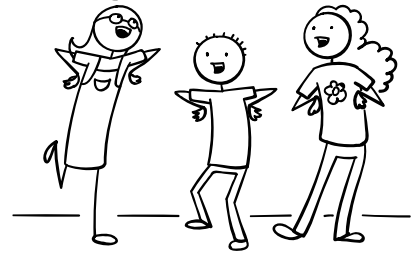


Special lesson

## Thanksgiving lesson



### General:

Level:	2 – KOALAS (ages 5-7)
Time:	50 mins - 1 hour 10 mins
Objectives:	Have fun with Thanksgiving themes.
Structures:	"Happy Thanksgiving", "What is it?".
New vocab:	Thanksgiving, turkey, gobble, wobble, cold/colder, warm/warmer, hot.

### You will need to download:

Flashcards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanksgiving flashcards: turkey</li></ul>
Printables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turkey escape! Worksheet</li><li>• The Thanksgiving turkey reader worksheet</li></ul>
Songs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hello Song</li><li>• Goodbye Song</li><li>• The Thanksgiving song</li></ul>
Readers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Thanksgiving turkey</li></ul>

These can be downloaded at <https://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html>

### You will also need:

- name tags and name cards for each student
- a glove puppet
- masking tape
- brown, yellow and orange construction paper / card
- glue and scissors
- cushions (1 per student)
- CD / Tape player or something to play the song on

### Notes:

This lesson does not focus on the history of the American Thanksgiving as it would be too complex for younger learners and in many cases has little relevance within their own culture. Instead, it introduces students to some fun Thanksgiving-related games and activities, as well as a Thanksgiving song and a funny Thanksgiving story!

## Lesson overview:

### Warm up and maintenance:

1. Greetings
2. Name tags
3. Glove puppet greetings
4. Sing "The Hello Song"
5. Homework check
6. Do "Exercise routine" activity

### New learning and practice:

1. Introduce the turkey and do the turkey walk
2. Sing "The Thanksgiving song"
3. Play "Musical turkeys"
4. 5-minute play time
5. Make a "Turkey hand & foot decoration"
6. Play "Hunt the turkey"
7. Read classroom reader "The Thanksgiving turkey"

### Wrap up:

1. Assign homework: "Turkey escape!"
2. Say goodbye to glove puppet
3. Sing "The Goodbye Song"
4. Do "Quick check" and say goodbye

## Lesson procedure:

### Warm up and maintenance:

#### 1. Greetings

Greet each student by name as they enter the classroom and say, "Happy Thanksgiving!" – try to get them to say this back to you.

Gesture for them to sit down (on cushions if you have them) in a fan-shape around you.



#### 2. Name tags

Before class, prepare some name tags (stickers or pin-on tags).

##### ***If your students can not write their names well:***

have each student's name written in dots or dashes in lower-case letters on the tags. Sit down with your students and lay out the name tags in front of you. Pick up each tag and encourage the student to recognize his/her name. Do this for everyone.



Finally, have everyone take out a pencil and trace their name on their tags and stick them on.

##### ***If your students can write their names well:***

simply give a blank name tag to each student to write their name on in pencil and stick it on.

#### 3. Glove puppet greetings

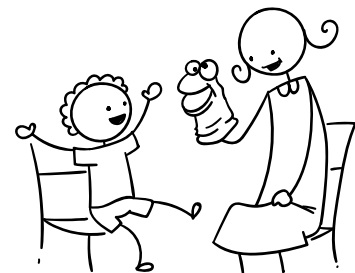
Bring out your glove puppet bag and have everyone shout "Hello!" into the bag until he wakes up and jumps out of the bag. Then model chatting with the glove puppet ...

*Puppet: "Hello", What's your name?"*

*Teacher: "My name is..."*

*Puppet: "How are you?"*

*Teacher: "I'm fine, thank you".*



... and then have the puppet say hello to each student and ask them the same questions. Then have the puppet ask any other questions practiced in previous lessons. Finally, go around saying "Goodbye" and "See you" before going back into the bag and back to sleep.

#### 4. Sing "The Hello Song"

Sit in a circle and sing the song (clap along or pat knees).

## Lyrics for "The Hello Song"

Hello, hello,  
How are you today?  
Hello, hello,  
How are you today?

I'm fine, thank you,  
I'm fine, thank you,  
I'm fine, thank you,  
And how about you?

Hello, hello,  
How are you today?  
I'm fine, thank you,  
And how about you?

## Gestures for "The Hello Song"

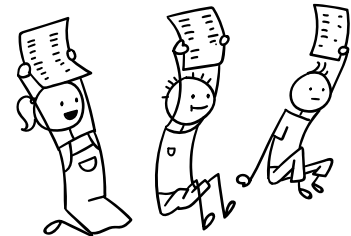
Sit in a circle and listen to the song (clap along or pat knees).

- Wave as you sing the "Hello, hello" parts.
- Gesture to others as you sing "How are you today?"
- Point to yourself as you sing "I'm fine, thank you"
- Hand gesture towards another student as you sing "And how about you?".



## 5. Homework check

Check each student's homework that you set in the last lesson. Ask each student some questions about the scenes on their homework worksheet (e.g. "What's this?", etc.), give lots of praise, and then put some kind of mark on the homework sheet (e.g. a sticker, a stamp or draw a smiley face).

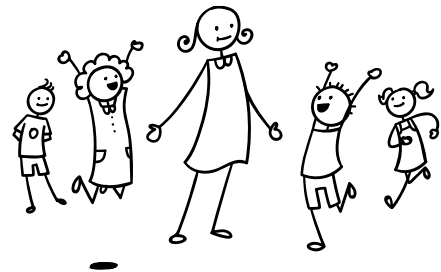


Finally, tell your students to put their homework back into their bags.

## 6. Do "Exercise routine" activity

Say the following and have the students follow your lead:

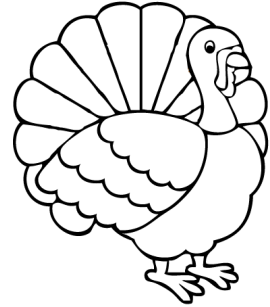
"Stand up (T stands and so does everyone else)  
"Hands up / hands down" (up to 10 times)  
"Jump" (up to 10 times)  
"Kick (up to 10 times)  
"Run! / Stop!" (up to 10 times)  
"Turn around! / Stop!" (up to 10 times)  
"Wiggle!" (a few seconds)  
finally "Sit down".



## New learning and practice:

### 1. Introduce the turkey and do the turkey walk

Show a flashcard of a turkey. Elicit / Teach "turkey" and chorus x3. Ask, "What noise does a turkey make?" and teach how to make gobble-gobble, turkey noises. Then ask, "How does a turkey walk?" and then show your best turkey impression - strut around, wobbling and flapping your elbows making "gobble-gobble" sounds.



Get everyone to join in, strutting around the classroom having lots of fun!

### 2. Sing "The Thanksgiving song"

Let's set our new walks to music! This is a really fun song with lots of gobbling and wobbling! Get everyone up and follow your gestures with the song. Play the song twice – first time to do with you and second time to do without following your actions.

Lyrics for "The Thanksgiving song"	Gestures for "The Thanksgiving song"
<p><b>Verse 1:</b> Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey How are you? How are you? Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey How are you? How are you?</p> <p>With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"</p> <p>And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"</p> <p>Happy, Happy Thanksgiving Hip-hip hooray! Hip-hip hooray!</p> <p><b>Verse 2:</b> Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey How are you? How are you? Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey How are you? How are you?</p> <p>With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"</p> <p>And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"</p>	<p>The actions for this song are simple, fun and energetic – who wouldn't enjoy running around like a turkey?!</p> <p>Everyone stands up for the song:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Hello Mr. Turkey, Hello Mr. Turkey" – everyone sings and waves.</li> <li>• "How are you? How are you?" – do the question gesture (palms up with inquisitive face).</li> <li>• "With a gobble ... And a wobble..." – this is the really fun bit. Everyone runs around like a turkey (crouched over, flapping elbows in a wobbly fashion) while gobbling!</li> <li>• "Happy, Happy Thanksgiving" – stop running around and sing.</li> <li>• "Hip-hip hooray! " – throw arms up in the air in celebration!</li> </ul>

With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
And a "Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

"Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"  
"Wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble, wobble"

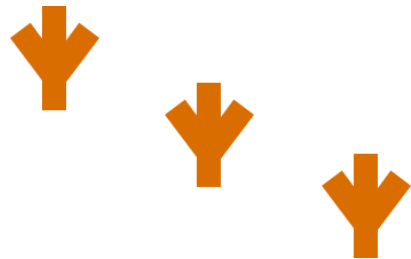
Happy, Happy, Happy Thanksgiving  
Hooray!



*With a "Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble,  
gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble"*

### 3. Play "Musical Turkeys"

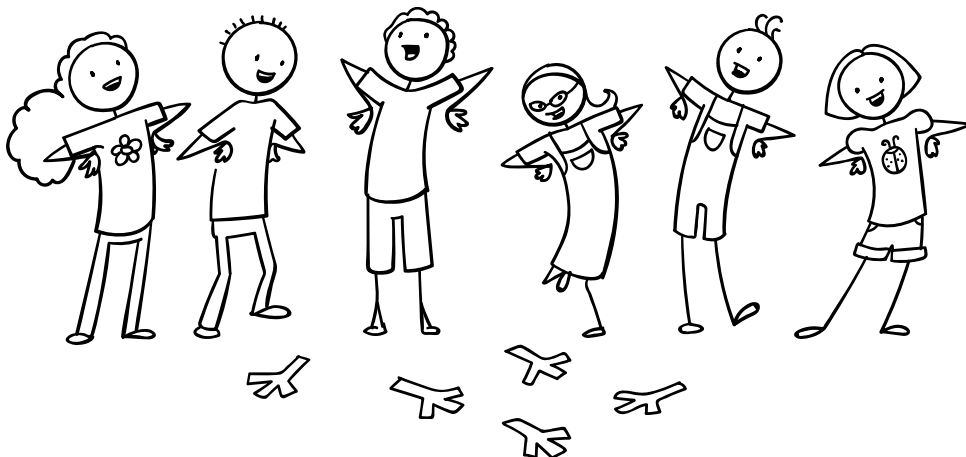
This is a game based on "Musical chairs" but using turkey footprints instead of chairs. Use pieces of masking tape to make turkey footprints all over the floor, like this:



Make sure there are the same number of footprints as the number of students in the class.

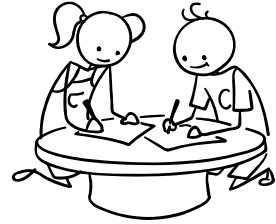
Start playing some music - either the Thanksgiving Song or any other music. Let the students pretend to be turkeys and strut around the room (gobbling and wobbling). When you stop the music, have the turkeys find a footprint to stand on (one turkey to a footprint).

Now, remove one footprint. When you start the music again, have the turkeys continue strutting around the room and when you stop the music everyone needs to find a footprint to stand on - the one student who can't find a footprint is out. Remove another footprint and play the music again. Keep playing until there is just one student left.



## 4. Read and write time

This segment can be part of all your lessons. Spend 10 to 15 minutes building up your students' writing and reading skills. You'll need to assess your students' reading/writing level and then choose to start at one of the following stages:



### 1. **Beginners: students cannot read or write the alphabet.**

Each lesson introduce 3 lower-case letters of the alphabet (first lesson will be a, b, c). Use flashcards to do this. Play alphabet games and do printing worksheets. **See our 'Alphabet a-z (lowercase)' mini-lesson plan for full details.**

### 2. **Early starters: students have experience with the alphabet but need phonics practice.**

Each lesson introduce 5 lower-case letters of the alphabet (first lesson will be a, b, c, d, e). Use flashcards to do this. Start by working on the sounds of the letters and then move onto letter clusters (e.g. sh, ee, etc). **See our 'Alphabet' and 'Letter clusters' mini-lesson plan for full details.**

### 3. **Early readers.**

Work on reading and writing simple sentences with lots of practice activities. **See our 'Early reading' mini-lesson plan for full details.**

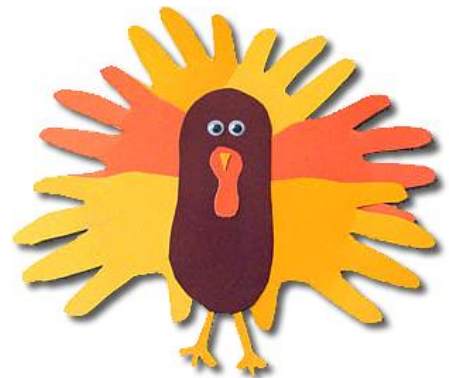
### 4. **Elementary readers: students can read and write simple sentences well.**

Work on reading and writing short texts and stories. **See our 'Reading short texts' mini-lessons for full details.**

## 5. **Make a "Turkey Hand & Foot Decoration"**

Before class, make the decoration yourself – this makes it a lot easier for your students to understand what to do.

Take out your pre-made turkey craft decoration and ask the class what it is (elicit "turkey"). Ask what shape the body and wings are and try and elicit that they are the shapes of your hands and feet (you can show this by placing your hand over one of the hand cut-outs).



Pair up students and tell them they are going to help each other make the craft:

- i) Using brown construction paper, students help each other to draw an outline of their foot. This is then cut out (help younger kids with the cutting).



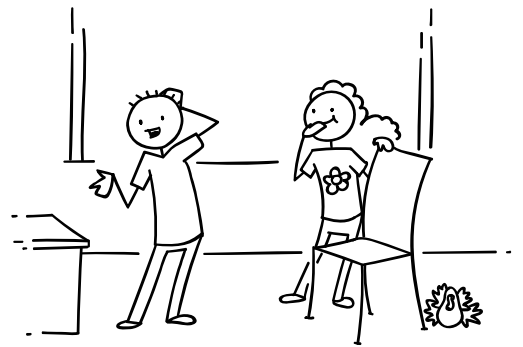
- ii) Now pairs help each other to draw outlines of their hands on yellow and orange construction paper. Again, these need to be cut out.
- iii) Finally, get the students to cut out little feet and beaks from the construction paper and glue everything to the body. Eyes can either be drawn on or if you have craft eyes you can stick them on.



## 6. Play "Hunt the Turkey"

Everyone is going to play a fun game using their turkey crafts. Keep the students in pairs for this activity. First demonstrate with a student. Ask the student to close his/her eyes whilst you hide your turkey decoration (e.g. under a book, behind a bag, etc.). Then tell the student to look for your turkey. As the student is looking you can help by giving the following hints:

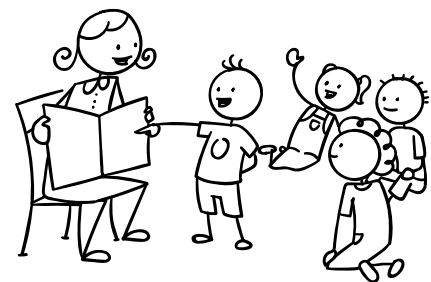
- "cold" - the student is far away from the turkey
- "colder" - the student is getting even further away from the turkey
- "warm" - the student is near the turkey
- "warmer" - the student is getting nearer the turkey
- "hot" - the student is very near the turkey



Once the student has found the turkey and everyone understands the game have the student pairs play together. Each time they finish they can change roles. Monitor each pair and help out with the vocab (warm, cold, etc.).

## 7. Read classroom reader "The Thanksgiving turkey"

Let's end with a fun story! The story focuses on the concept of being thankful. Before class, download and print off the reader "The Thanksgiving turkey" from our website. As you go through each page, point to the pictures and elicit what is happening in the story, for example:



*Teacher: (pointing at the turkey picture on page 2) What is Mr. Turkey doing?*

*Students: Eating!*

*Teacher: That's right, he's eating his food. (Reading) "I'm thankful for my lovely food each day."*

Elicit some of the objects and colours in the pictures and have fun with the story.



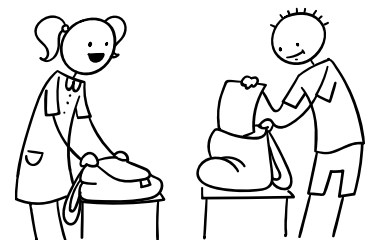
After reading the story, give out a reader worksheet to each student and have everyone fill in the blanks. Then read through the story one more time (without stopping for questions, etc.) to check the answers as a class.

## Wrap up:

### 1. Assign homework: "Turkey escape!"

Hold up the homework worksheet – this is a fun follow the dash line activity. Point to the turkey and elicit what it is. Model by taking out a crayon or pencil and following the dashed line.

Give out the worksheets and say, "Put your homework in your bags" and help them to do so - this is important as they will probably want to start working on them right away.



### 2. Say goodbye to glove puppet

Take out the bag again and get everyone to wake up the glove puppet by shouting its name into the bag (e.g. "Cookie Monster!"). Bring out the puppet and go through the same routine - go to each student and say hello, ask their name and the say goodbye / see you. Then put the puppet back in the bag (back to sleep).



### 3. Sing "The Goodbye Song"

Sit together in a circle and sing and clap along.

#### Lyrics for "The Goodbye Song"

Goodbye, goodbye,  
See you again.  
Goodbye, goodbye,  
See you again.

It's time to go,  
It's time to go,  
It's time to go,  
See you next time.

Goodbye, goodbye,  
See you again.  
It's time to go,  
See you next time.



#### Gestures for "The Goodbye Song"

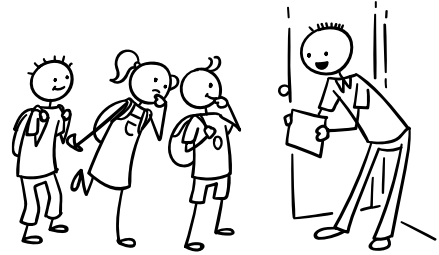
Have everyone do the gestures with you.

- Wave as you sing the "Goodbye, goodbye" parts.
- Hold your hand above your eyes (as you would when you are looking into the distance and keeping the sun out of your eyes) and look at another student as you sing "See you again".
- Tap watch (or imaginary watch) and then point to the door as you sing "It's time to go".
- Point towards another student as you sing "See you next time".

#### 4. Do "Quick check" and say goodbye

Time to leave the class. Make sure everything is put away and the students have gathered their belongings. Have them line up at the door and place yourself between the door and the students.

As each student goes to the door to leave the classroom ask them to show you how a turkey walks. Good impressions can leave the room, otherwise they go back to the end of the line - they will have to try again once they reach the front!



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- All flashcards, worksheets, craft sheets, readers and songs used in this lesson plan can be downloaded at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](https://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)
  - More free Lesson Plans are available at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](https://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)

Can you suggest any additions to this lesson plan? If you know of any great games, activities, teaching points, links to other sites or any other ideas that can be added to this lesson plan, please email us: <https://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

Please report any mistakes at <https://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

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