

Quick Chat 17: What are your favorite holidays?

In this episode, Kevin and Jack talk about their favorite holidays, and what makes them so special. Share your answers to the discussion questions in our WhatsApp group chat! <https://forms.gle/zKCS8y1t9jwv2KTn7>

Podcast Website: <https://atoenglishpodcast.com/what-are-your-favorite-holidays/>

With listener mail from episode 14: <https://atoenglishpodcast.com/technology-from-the-80s-and-90s/>

If you could take a minute and complete a short survey about the podcast, we would be very appreciative. You can find the survey here: <https://forms.gle/HHNnnqU6U8W3DodK8>

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

Intro/Outro Music byEaters: <https://freemusicarchive.org/music/eaters/the-astronomers-office/agents-in-coffee-shops/>

Key Words

Directions: Write the meanings of the words by using a dictionary.

Thanksgiving

Halloween

Jack-o-lantern

Harvest

Festival

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is your favorite holiday?**
- 2. Why do you like it?**
- 3. What is your least favorite holiday?**
- 4. Why do you like it the least?**
- 5. Who do you spend the holidays with: friends or family?**

Transcript

Jack

You are listening to the A-Z English podcast.

Kevin

Welcome to an A-Z English quick chat. We're going to surprise each other with the topic for the day and see where the conversation goes.

Kevin

Remember to check our website for steady guy with vocabulary notes and discussion questions as well as linked to our WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media pages so you can join in the conversation as well.

Kevin

But Jack what?

Kevin

Do you want to talk about today?

Kevin

What's this topic?

Jack

Today I want to talk about favorite holidays so well.

Kevin

And cool.

Jack

I know that you're a big fan of of the holidays, the holiday season, and I am 2, but everybody got their like favorite.

Jack

One you know.

Jack

And so I've kind of.

Jack

I would like to use it to share with our listeners what your favorite.

Jack

American Holiday is and why?

Kevin

Yeah for holidays, that's interesting.

Kevin

I'm it depends on the holiday for me because actually some holidays like Christmas.

Kevin

I don't really like very much, but that's the and that was not I I Grinch or as screwed.

Jack

Are you a Grinch or Scrooge?

Kevin

It's just when I was in university, I worked a couple of retail jobs at just like big stores.

Kevin

And they just always played Christmas music all day, every day for two months the same the same CD repeated.

Jack

Right, the same 7 songs.

Jack

Over and over again, right.

Kevin

Again and again and again.

Kevin

And I just got really sick of it.

Kevin

It's just like no more Christmas, but around that same time of year is the American Thanksgiving.

Kevin

And that holiday is probably the holiday that I probably the holiday that I miss the most not living in America these days.

Kevin

I'll talk about it a.

Kevin

Little bit, but what's?

Kevin

What's yours first?

Jack

So mine is a little bit strange because it I don't know if it's technically a holiday, but I'm getting.

Kevin

Things well, that's what you got.

Jack

I'll tell you what it is.

Jack

OK, so I when I was a kid, I loved Halloween.

Kevin

OK, right.

Jack

And I still do.

Jack

I I, I still love Halloween.

Jack

I love all the.

Jack

The icons, you know, like the Jack O Lantern and the witch and the ghosts and Dracula and vampires and zombies and all that sort of stuff.

Kevin

Right.

Jack

I love zombie movies and vampire movies.

Kevin

Right. We talked about that.

Jack

Movies, so I love horror.

Jack

Uhm, so for me, I just always loved Halloween.

Jack

Now, in America, Halloween is not a day off from work.

Jack

So you still have to go to work on Halloween.

Kevin

Right.

Jack

So it's not technically a holiday, but.

Kevin

The best.

Jack

It's something that we celebrate.

Kevin

I think account.

Jack

And it kind of, it is kind of like the first holiday of the holiday season which would be Thanksgiving, is in November and Christmas is in December and Halloween starts on.

Jack

October 31st.

Kevin

Right.

Kevin

That is pretty much where, yeah that that holiday season because, it's the three holidays basically in two months, you know end of October.

Kevin

End of November.

Kevin

end of December.

Kevin

Just bumping film all altogether.

Kevin

That's a a cool one, because it's so different from here in Korea too.

Kevin

In America, right?

Kevin

Like in America?

Kevin

I mean, people go crazy decorating their homes with so much holiday decorations my dad loves to decorate.

Kevin

Like they would set up this, their whole yard would have, you know, skeletons and witches and light shows and things there's.

Jack

Ah, I love when families really get into it like that.

Jack

Like, uh.

Jack

What when we were young, what was really exciting for my brother and me was to go to a pumpkin patch, and so we would.

Kevin

Oh, OK, cool.

Jack

We would each pick out a pumpkin, and then we would bring it home.

Jack

And then you take all the insides of the pumpkin out, and then you carve what's called a Jackal Lantern, and that's.

Jack

You know, you put you, you cut out the eyes and you cut out a nose and a mouth.

Jack

And you put a candle inside of it, and at night it looks really cool because it glows with that fathom inside.

Kevin

Yeah, I I remember doing that.

Kevin

What did you guys do with the pumpkin seeds?

Jack

We just threw it all in the garbage.

Jack

It was just like, the smell is not so good.

Oh, Oh no.

Jack

And I know that.

Jack

I know pumpkin seeds are really quite healthy and you can you can bake them or, yeah, that's smart.

Kevin

That's what we would do.

Kevin

It's really simple, like there's.

Kevin

All the pumpkin guts and I don't remember I.

Kevin

I'm sure my mom just threw that away.

Kevin

She would like pick all the seeds out.

Kevin

Of it, but she would.

Kevin

Just line, uh, Trey, just with seeds.

Kevin

And throw it in the oven and just sprinkle salt over it.

Kevin

So just salted pumpkin seeds.

Kevin

Really simple.

Kevin

And yeah, every year we would we would have just a big tray of pumpkin seeds after making our jack-o'-lanterns.

Jack

I think we were just too lazy to kind of pull the guts apart from the seeds.

Jack

Like it's kind of hard to separate the seeds.

Kevin

Yeah, they all stuck together.

Jack

It's all stuck together, but yeah.

Kevin

I don't remember how my mom did it, but I know she was she.

Kevin

Was the one in charge of Elsa.

Jack

This is a hard worker, yeah?

Kevin

Yes, wait.

Jack

The yeah and the other thing I like, I like the season.

Jack

My favorite season is fall and so Halloween comes kind of at the end of fall or right in the middle of fall, I guess.

Jack

And the air is kind of in English we say brisk.

Jack

So it's kind of, that's my favorite temperature.

Kevin

I do love the fall as well.

Jack

I love it.

Jack

Yeah, just the.

Kevin

And Thanksgiving then is just a couple weeks later, and so it's starting to get a little bit cold.

Kevin

But it depends on where you live.

Kevin

Of course for me.

Kevin

Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving is a holiday.

Kevin

A day off of work, of course.

Kevin

And I always loved Thanksgiving because it's just a gathering of friends and family.

Kevin

And for us, I have a pretty small family, especially growing up, like my family is spread all over America.

Kevin

So Thanksgiving, we would actually go over to a family friends house and we would join in their big Thanksgiving.

Kevin

Instead of my family, which is just three people.

Kevin

We would go and join this big group where there was like 20 people there and we would, you know, there was a ton of food.

Kevin

Of course it's Thanksgiving food, but then also it was really fun because there were all the other kids to play with all the other families, and so we'd all eat and eat and eat a lot.

Kevin

And then after, of course.

Kevin

It was, you know, the parents and the adults would all go and either watch TV or talk or whatever and all the kids we would go up to.

Kevin

One of the kids rooms at whatever house we were at and we played a lot of video games.

Kevin

I know we talked about that a couple episodes ago.

Kevin

And so it was just a really fun day to to gather all together with friends and family.

Kevin

And then I did the same when I was in university.

Kevin

Actually, because again, Thanksgiving has always been really big for me.

Kevin

And when you're in university, you know, some people live or some people, parents, homes.

Kevin

Are quite far from the university town.

Kevin

And so sometimes my friends would go home for Thanksgiving, and they'd go back.

Kevin

But before Thanksgiving, every year, we would do a friendsgiving.

Kevin

And so it was all the friends would get together because Thanksgiving Day is for family and so some people would go home.

Kevin

But before that, like one week before, we have all the friends to come together and everyone would, you know, we're just college students.

Kevin

We don't have a lot of money.

Kevin

We don't have a lot of.

Kevin

They don't have a lot of space, but everyone would do.

Kevin

We do a potluck.

Kevin

And so, you know, I would bring some food and my other friend would bring some food and everyone would bring something and we would all come together and do like a friend Thanksgiving, where we'd all just get together.

Jack

Did you, did you cook?

Jack

A bird like like make for our listeners out there like the most traditional of Thanksgiving.

Jack

Food is the Turkey we yeah, I made a Turkey and did you guys do a Turkey for friendsgiving?

Kevin

Sometimes everyone would do something different.

Kevin

There was almost always someone would do our Turkey, would actually bake the whole Turkey.

Kevin

What I I always like to have fun with my friends giving.

Kevin

So Turkey is still the traditional food for it.

Kevin

But what I did for my friends giving for two years.

Kevin

In a row I remember I did different things, though I still did Turkey, but not like the big, you know, full birds cooked in an oven.

Jack

Yeah, that's too much for just a few friends, yeah.

Kevin

Uhm, yeah.

Kevin

So what I did though is I would go and just buy some Turkey meat and one year I did Turkey tacos.

Jack

Turkey tacos, OK, yeah.

Kevin

So it was still Turkey.

Kevin

You still get that traditional Turkey, but I was like, I'm going to do something different with it.

Kevin

And we did Turkey tacos or another year.

Kevin

I did Turkey sandwiches, and so we'd still do like, the cranberry spread, but instead of, you know, just on the plate of Turkey meat and cranberries and things.

Kevin

It was a Turkey sandwich, basically, so I played with the theme a little bit.

Jack

That's fun that the Turkey Taco thing is definitely a good representation of where you're from. The SW yeah, you're close to Mexico. So yeah, of course.

Kevin

That too, yeah.

Jack

Mexican food.

Jack

That kind of fusion with Thanksgiving is a great idea.

Jack

I the thing I remember is the week after Thanksgiving.

Jack

How many Turkey sandwiches my brother and I would eat because my mom had all of this meat leftover from Thanksgiving?

Kevin

Lots of blood fingers.

Jack

Yeah, it was just Turkey sandwiches for, like, a week after Thanksgiving.

Jack

Yeah, every day.

Jack

Yeah, but I loved it.

Kevin

That was the best part.

Jack

I love Turkey.

Kevin

When, yeah, I loved when I a couple years I went to my friend because I was living away from my parents in university, but one of my good friends, he was still living with his.

Kevin

Family. And so they would invite me to their house for Thanksgiving as again, just big important holiday. And I would love that because as a college student going to my friend's mom house, that mom would make tons of food and always would give me bags and bags of food to take home after I had tons of leftovers.

Jack

And then when you're a poor college student, that there's nothing better than free food.

Kevin

Oh yeah.

Kevin

There's nothing better than free food, and I think this is kind of an interesting place to end, and that's something I'd love to talk to or hear from our audience about our listeners.

Kevin

Like one what holiday is important for you and what's your favorite holiday?

Kevin

But what does your family do on those holidays?

Kevin

And is it the same or is it different?

Kevin

From other holidays and every family has her own trip.

Jack

That's right. In every country got its own you know cultural holidays that might not align with the with the US so share, share those two because. Yeah.

Kevin

And that.

Jack

Very interested in in lots of different you know stories and lots of different conditions.

Kevin

I think Thanksgiving would be what I'd love to hear because a lot of countries don't have Thanksgiving in the same way, but they have some harvest festival, and that's really what Thanksgiving is.

Jack

Dad, right. Yeah, yeah.

Kevin

You know, here in Korea we've got chalk, and in America we've got Thanksgiving.

Kevin

And it's the same idea, but it's so different.

Kevin

But still, it's getting friends, it's getting family together and food.

Jack

Yeah, it's all there's all of its family and food.

Kevin

So she.

Jack

Those are the two common denominators.

Kevin

Those are the big ones.

Jack

I think they, yeah.

Jack

Cut across all the holidays.

Kevin

Yeah, yeah.

Kevin

That's so I'd love to hear what different holidays you have, but also how do you do your holidays?

Because, maybe it's different and holidays are fun to talk about.

Kevin

Always a happy time of year, hopefully.

Kevin

And so that's where it's a good topic to to discuss.

Kevin

But we can go ahead.

Kevin

And wrap up with that for today.

Kevin

So what about listener mail Jack who has who sent in today?

Jack

Yes, so we.

Jack

Have, yeah, so we have some listener messages from our listener mail from.

Jack

Nikki and I'm I apologize if I.

Kevin

And this was actually on our website of course, so you can comment on there.

Jack

Yeah, yeah.

Jack

Nikki wrote right into the yeah, you can just leave a comment right on our website.

Jack

And so she said hi, Kevin and Jack.

Jack

And the question was how did you learn to type?

Jack

And so that was one of the discussion questions that we had in a recent episode, I believe.

Kevin

That was from, yeah, quick Chat 14 about our technology discussion, our old technology one.

Jack

That's right, that's right, Nikki said.

Jack

I learned to type when I studied for two years at university and I started a part time job at that time.

Jack

In the interview, the first question was, can I use a computer?

Jack

Here, unfortunately, we didn't have a computer in our house.

Kevin

You don't.

Jack

It was very difficult to find an Internet cafe in our city.

Jack

Fortunately, my father friend worked at the university at the Computer Center, and so Nikki says I asked permission from him to use the computer.

Kevin

OK, nice.

Jack

Yeah, he showed me how to turn up, turn on and turn off the computer and then said the best way to learn is just.

Jack

Do it by yourself.

Jack

So he didn't really help her help Nikki.

Jack

And so, uh, but Nikki figured it out and even though it was hard, eventually learned how to type.

Jack

So there you go.

Jack

That's a very interesting story.

Jack

And yeah, I mean, that's the way you learn things anyway, right?

Jack

It's just talking about doing it.

Kevin

It really is.

Kevin

Just start.

Kevin

Just do it.

Kevin

Just get in there and start clicking around.

Kevin

That's great.

Kevin

Well, thanks for writing it on the website, Nikki.

Kevin

That's very cool information to have.

Kevin

And for everybody, of course, you can please check out our website where we have all of our information.

Kevin

Then of course you can comment right on there, but also remember to check the show notes where you can get links to the website and links to our WhatsApp group where you can come and join the conversation.

Kevin

Tell us more.

Kevin

Also, if you've got the time, it would be great if on Apple Podcast you could go and give us a 5 star review.

Kevin

And write a comment about how we're helping you with your English here.

Kevin

So everybody, thanks for joining in and see you in our chat.

Jack

Alright, bye. Bye.