

CELEBRATIONS

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Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults and young adults

Level: Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time: 60–90 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. Read a text about Shrove Tuesday and find out why it is also known as Pancake Day;
2. Work with the language involved and talk about how they make and prefer to eat pancakes;
3. Complete a short survey and practise talking about survey results and preferences.

Language focus: vocabulary related to Pancake Day, and the language involved in talking about survey results and preferences

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Warmer

Students do the quiz in pairs and then see how well they do compared to other students. They should look up the meaning of any words they do not know. The mini quiz serves to introduce the topic of pancakes.

Key:

1. b
2. a
3. b

2. Key words and expressions

Students search for and underline the key words in the text. Then they quickly read the text to notice how the words are used in context before writing them next to their definitions.

Note: After this task, the students should read the text again thoroughly and carefully before moving onto task 3.

Key:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. luxuries | 7. finishing line |
| 2. dairy products | 8. toss |
| 3. busy | 9. catch |
| 4. mass | 10. drop |
| 5. races | 11. survey |
| 6. contestants | 12. prefer |

3. Summarising the text

Students decide how to finish the sentences by matching the sentence halves to make facts about Shrove Tuesday.

Key:

1. f
2. a
3. b
4. g
5. d
6. c
7. e

4. Expressions with time

Students find and circle the expression in the article. Then they decide what they mean and, finally, use them in sentences about themselves.

Key:

- b. exactly at the time that something begins or is needed = *just in time*; forgot about other things because you were so interested in what you were doing = *lost track of time*

5. Perfect pancakes

In this short discussion task, students share pancake recipes or talk about how they or someone they know makes pancakes. Do they have any tips to share with one another?

If they have never eaten or made pancakes, then they should look up a recipe on the internet and discuss how easy or difficult it would be for them to get the ingredients and make pancakes.

6. A pancake survey

Students tick the appropriate boxes to show how they would answer these two survey questions. Then they ask the other students in their class the same questions and put ticks in the appropriate boxes. Ask students to work together and discuss what they found out and decide how to talk about the results using the prompts provided.

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1. Warmer

Choose the best answers to the questions.

- A pancake is a ...
 - thick cake baked in the oven.
 - thin flat cake fried in a pan.
 - round, sweet ball of ice cream.
- Pancakes are made with ...
 - flour, milk and egg.
 - oil, water and flour.
 - egg, butter and sugar.
- In the UK, most people like to eat pancakes with ...
 - chocolate spread and sugar.
 - lemon juice and sugar.
 - cheese and ham.

2. Key words and expressions

Read the article and find and underline the key words from the box below. Then match the words to their definitions (1–12).

busy	catch	contestants	dairy products	drop	finishing line	luxuries
mass	prefer	races	survey	toss		

- special or expensive things that are not necessary but that you like to have or eat _____
- milk and foods that are made from milk, for example butter and cheese _____
- having a lot of things to do _____
- a religious ceremony in the Roman Catholic church _____
- competitions in which people try to be the first or the fastest at something _____
- people who take part in a race _____
- a line in sports that shows where a race ends _____
- throw something up into the air _____
- stop and hold something that is moving through the air, especially something that someone throws _____
- allow something to fall to the ground _____
- a set of questions that you ask a lot of people _____
- like something more than something else _____

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)



The exact date of Shrove Tuesday is different every year, but it is always 47 days before Easter Sunday, and always on a Tuesday.

Depending when Easter is, Shrove Tuesday can be anytime between 2 February and 9 March. In the UK, Ireland, Australia and Canada, people usually call this celebration Pancake Day because many people eat pancakes on this day.

The day after Shrove Tuesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is a time in the Christian calendar which ends the day before Easter Sunday. During Lent people try to eat simpler food and give up luxuries such as meat, dairy products and eggs. It was a tradition to use up these foods before the beginning of Lent by making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

In the past, Shrove Tuesday was a 'half holiday' in Britain. It started at 11 o'clock in the morning with church bells ringing. In 1445 a woman was so busy making pancakes that she lost track of time. When she heard the bells ringing, she quickly ran to the church and got there just in time for Shrove Tuesday mass, still carrying her pancake in a pan. This story is where the tradition of pancake races through the streets on Shrove Tuesday comes from.

Even today, on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, many towns and villages hold pancake races. Contestants run to the finishing line as fast as they can while carrying a pancake in a frying pan. The rules say that the contestants must toss and catch their pancakes, in their frying pans, at the beginning and end of each race, and they should try not to drop them.

Pancake day is still popular in Britain today. Some people like to have chocolate spread or ice cream on their pancakes, but one of the most popular and traditional ways to eat pancakes is with lemon juice and sugar.

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3. Summarizing the text

Match the sentence halves to make facts about Shrove Tuesday.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the ... | a. Easter Sunday. |
| 2. It can be on a different day every year, but it is always 47 days before ... | b. Pancake Day. |
| 3. Most people in the UK, Ireland, Australia and Canada call it ... | c. Shrove Tuesday. |
| 4. People made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday to use up foods such as ... | d. during Lent. |
| 5. After Shrove Tuesday, people don't eat these luxury foods again ... | e. lemon and sugar. |
| 6. Many villages and towns hold pancake races on ... | f. beginning of Lent. |
| 7. Many people in Britain like to eat their pancakes with ... | g. dairy products and eggs. |

4. Expressions with *time*

a. Find and circle these expressions in the article. Then match them to the meanings.

lost track of time	just in time
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exactly at the time that something begins or is needed _____
to forget about other things because you are so interested in what you are doing

c. Complete these sentences so that they are about yourself. Then try to make other sentences of your own using the expressions *lose track of time* and *just in time*.

I often lose track of time when ...

I completely lost track of time when ...

When I went to _____, I got to the airport / train station / bus stop just in time.

I managed to finish my _____ just in time.

5. Perfect pancakes

Talk about how you (or someone you know) make(s) pancakes. If you don't know how to make pancakes, find a recipe.

My grandmother makes wonderful pancakes for me and my sister. She always made them with milk, flour and two eggs.

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6. A pancake survey

a. Read the survey below and answer the questions about yourself by putting a tick ✓ next to your answers.

Question 1

Do you usually eat pancakes on Pancake Day?

Yes	Maybe	No	I never eat pancakes

Question 2

What do you like best on your pancakes?

Pancake topping	Me	My friends
Lemon and sugar		
Chocolate spread (e.g. Nutella)		
Honey		
Cinnamon		
Smoked salmon and cream cheese		
Cheese		
Mushrooms		
Peanut butter		
Ham		
Spinach		
Jam		
Other (what?)		

b. Talk to the other students in your class and tick ✓ their answers.

c. Tell your class what you found out.

*Six people in our class will eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.
About half of the people in our class like to eat pancakes with ...
Only one person likes to eat pancakes with ...
No one likes to eat pancakes with ...
Amanda said she likes to eat pancakes with ...*