

FFCC Podcast Transcript:

Typical celebrations in your country

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Here's some advice on how to use the podcast and transcript:

1. Listen to the podcast and see how much you can understand. Is it 50%? 70%? The percentage doesn't matter. Just make a note of it.
2. Try to summarize the conversation. You can think about it, say it out loud, or write it down.
3. Read the transcript. Do you understand more now that you can read the words? How accurate was your summary?
4. Listen and follow the transcript, so you can hear the difference between how English is pronounced vs. how it is written
5. Note any words or expressions that you did not understand. Add these to your vocabulary list in your English notebook and make flashcards so that you can study them and grow your vocabulary.
6. Write down any questions you have about the new words or expressions so that you can ask about them during FFCC.
7. Go back and listen again. How much do you understand now?
8. Repeat this process as much as you'd like.
9. Feel free to use this as a topic of conversation with your discussion partner!

Faster Fluency Conversation Club: Episode 102- Typical celebrations in your country.

Welcome to the Faster Fluency Conversation Club podcast by Business English with Christina. The Faster Fluency Conversation Club takes place on Zoom and is a way for English learners to improve their fluency and confidence in English, by talking about real world topics. We meet for one hour every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. And if you're interested in practicing your English, becoming more confident and meeting people, just like you, from all around the world while my expert teachers and I guide you to become better in English, just click the link in the show notes. Our podcast listeners receive a 40% discount their first month in the club. Come and join us today.

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Christina:

Hi everyone, Christina here for your Faster Fluency Conversation Club podcast, and today I'm with Matthew. Matthew, how are you doing over there?

Matthew:

Oh, I'm doing pretty good. It is sweltering hot here in the almost middle of October, but otherwise pretty good.

Christina:

This does not sound like my kind of place to be. Nope. Nope, Nope. Definitely, I'm more of a fall and winter type person, but that's okay. It's fall over there? Yeah, it's fall?

Matthew:

I mean, we don't really have a fall **per se**, but it's rainy season to be honest. So the temperatures do drop just because of that. But yeah, I remember last October it rained every single day, no joke, in October. But this year it's not nearly as bad. So fingers crossed.

Christina:

Okay. Well, enjoy sitting in the heat in October, but yeah, no, we're going to talk about today's topic, which is typical celebrations in your country. And I was thinking that, like you said, it's fall, it's October, I think for you and I both, as Americans, October is Halloween and it's a really typical American holiday. I think maybe now some other countries do celebrate it because **globalization** and **whatnot**, but traditionally, it's more of an American holiday. What did you use to do for Halloween back when you were in the US?

Matthew:

Oh, I mean, I guess there's two different Halloweens, right? There's the Halloween, when you're a child growing up and going trick or treating, getting lots of candy, obviously dressing up in a costume and then playing fun little games, like bobbing for apples, going to haunted houses, things like that. Yeah. But yeah, Halloween was always super fun, to see what candy you would get maybe. I have brothers and a sister. We would always trade, like, "Oh, which one do you like? Which one do you like?" Yeah. How about you?

Christina:

Yeah, I was going to say, very much when I was a kid, we would dress up in costumes and usually we would get together with the other kids in the neighborhood or with **a bunch of** my cousins and we would all go trick-or-treating together as a little group of kids. And then maybe my mom or some other adult would dress up as well and come along with us. But yeah, it was always a lot of fun because, I don't know if they do this, I'm sure they do it where you're from,

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decorating the houses. Some people really go all out with their Halloween decorations and they get up some pretty impressive displays in front of their house with all the Halloween decorations.

So it's always nice to go and see the decorations and like you said, haunted houses. Some people would, I remember, set up this, I guess **haunted house**, maybe in their front yard or something. And so they would put up temporary, I don't know, walls or something. They would make a corridor with **a maze** and you would go through it and there would be lots of scary things that would jump at you. They really do big things for Halloween. And that was always a lot of fun. Yeah.

Matthew:

Yeah. Carving pumpkins, making jack-o-lanterns. That was always something fun. And then we would bake the pumpkin seeds to eat afterwards. I really like pumpkin seeds. Yeah, we would do lots of fun stuff.

Christina:

Yeah. I really like Halloween, it's a big holiday in the US and I think I read that it's the biggest holiday after Christmas. So yeah, it's a pretty big deal. But yeah. And then there's also another typical American holiday coming up, right after Halloween. It's Thanksgiving at the end of... Is it your favorite holiday?

Matthew:

Yes. Yes, by far.

Christina:

What do you like about Thanksgiving?

Matthew:

Well, first of all, I just like fall in general. My birthday's in the fall. I like the fall leaves, the fall colors, the weather. We call it **sweater weather**, and then it's just a great holiday because you eat as much as you can and drink and watch football is big in the US, football is on all day.

Christina:

Yeah, the Thanksgiving football games. Yeah.

Matthew:

And really, there's a **no strings attached** part of it. With Christmas, there's that stress and pressure of getting people gifts. So it's like Christmas, but without that.

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Christina:

It is, yeah. And a lot of people ask me, "Oh, what is Thanksgiving? What exactly do you do?" And they imagine it to be, I guess, a lot like Christmas. And I'm like, it's Christmas without the gifts and without the Christmas tree, basically. Because we always had pretty much the same foods for Thanksgiving and Christmas, like Turkey and dressing, or roast pork, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, pumpkin pie, all of that stuff.

Matthew:

All the things.

Christina:

Yeah, exactly. Cranberry sauce. And so it would be generally pretty much the same meal, but yeah, like you said, it's a nice family **get together**, with family or friends or both or whatever, but without that pressure of Christmas presents. Yeah. And it's just basically like, hey, let's sit down and have a meal together. And I don't know about you, and I know everybody's different, but we didn't sit down at the table for dinner very often as a family, because people are coming and going for their different football practice or band practice or whatever. And so Thanksgiving was the meal where everybody sat down at a nice table together.

Matthew:

Yeah. I see. Yeah. I guess **for the most part**, my family would always sit down for dinner. Of course, there would be some occasions where we didn't. I have a very large **extended family** so our Thanks... I almost said Thanksmas. My family does celebrate Thanksmas as well. So it's like a mixture of Thanksgiving, Christmas, that's for the extended family. And that's usually because Thanksgiving is a four-day because it's Thursday, Thanksgiving, then you have Friday off, Saturday, Sunday. So I don't know how it evolved, but it just came to be that Thursday was Thanksgiving. And then I think we do Saturday's Thanksmas, and I have big families on both sides, my mom's side, my dad's side. So it's like 20 plus people at each dinner.

Christina:

Oh yeah. So you've got to spread that out over maybe a couple of days.

Matthew:

Right. Right. Exactly. Exactly. But yeah. And then yeah, just having the leftovers on Friday or all weekend, it's just lots of food.

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Christina:

You eat turkey for a week after.

Matthew:

Yes. Exactly.

Christina:

Yeah. Okay. Very interesting. Well, I guess maybe this would be a good occasion to wish everyone listening to the podcast, happy Halloween, if you're going to celebrate it. And it's way too early to say happy Thanksgiving, but I think we can say enjoy that season or that feeling of gratitude and whatever anyway, so, right. Well, thank you Matthew, for sharing a little bit of your stories and we'll talk to you soon.

Matthew:

Thanks for having me. See you next time.

Thank you for listening again this week. As a bonus for our listeners, we've now made the transcript public. So you can read after listening. Our goal is to help you improve all aspects of your English and you're not alone. One of the best parts of joining the Faster Fluency Conversation Club is the friendships that our members make with people from all around the world. Learning is so much more fun when you're doing it with other people.

And when you have fun, while you learn, you're much more likely to remember what you learned. On top of that, all of our members receive new materials each week to help them prepare to talk about the topic. You'll get new exercises for vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, plus related articles, activities, and of course, tremendous support from the community each week. If you'd like to join, the link for more details is in the show notes for this podcast, and we hope to see you in the club.

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