

The Holiday Special: What Would They Do Instead?

LEVEL: Intermediate

TIME: 20 min.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Vocabulary Development, Pragmatic Competence, Cultural Propriety

SKILLS: Conversational Ability, Speaking and Listening

MATERIALS: Video relevant to Special Customs within a World Holiday of the dominant classroom culture. Counter that example with another example from an English speaking country.

GOAL: The students will become aware of customs that are normal within their culture and see the differences and ideals that other cultures highlight within their rituals. I.E. KFC in Japan for Christmas.

STUDENTS WILL: Explore the customs of a holiday in another country and then reflect on how a holiday they celebrate may be similar or different to a person from another place.

PROCEDURE:

- Discuss English vocabulary pertaining to the chosen holiday. The students will be asked to consider what terminology they relate to in their own experience of the holiday.
- We will present a video of a foreign or English speaking country and the ways they experience the holiday and communicate the holiday intent.
- Students will discuss with each other the experience and list what they found most atypical about the interactions/rituals in the video. What in this example would be weird to see in this country to do in the holiday?
- A video would be played of the holiday as an example of a relatable holiday experience the students might be more used to or relate more to.
- The students would then discuss with each other again, but this time they would be asked what they think foreigners from English speaking countries might find weird in the way they celebrate the occasion/holiday.
- A class discussion would occur where we list on the similarities and differences from what foreigners might find different to what the students would find different.