

Kompetent
AUFSTEIGEN ...

4. Klasse AHS-NMS

Tapescripts

TAPESCRIPTS
Kompetent AUFSTEIGEN Englisch 4
Astrid Berger/Gabriele Broniowski

Listening Comprehension 1: Ireland

Interviewer: Hi Tom, welcome to our programme "Dream Holidays".

Tom: Hi.

Interviewer: Tom, you've just returned from a holiday in Ireland.

Tom: Yes, that's true: And it was a wonderful experience.

Interviewer: Really, many people would probably not choose Ireland for their summer holiday. Just think of the Irish weather....

Tom: Of course, if you want a beach holiday with lots of sun and hot weather, Ireland is probably not the place to go. But if you want to experience nature in all its beauty, if you want to meet friendly and easy-going people, if you are interested in culture and traditional music, then Ireland is a must.

Interviewer: So, if people want to go there, which places should they visit?

Tom: Well, Dublin of course. It's an interesting city, not too big. So you don't get all the stress and noise you find in other European capitals. Still, there are lots of good shops and nice pubs. And, of course, there is Trinity College, maybe the best university in Ireland. It's a good idea to take one of the guided tours, which will not only take you to the famous book of Kells but will also give you a lot of information about the buildings of the college, which all have an interesting story. Many of the tour guides are excellent story tellers.

Interviewer: You mentioned the Book of Kells. What's so special about this book?

Tom: It is very old, actually it was written around 800 AD and contains parts of the Bible, namely the four gospels of the New Testament. There are beautiful decorations and drawings. Incredible, what people were able to do so many years ago!

Interviewer: Now, what about people who are not really into museums and old books. Where should they go?

Tom: They should definitely go to County Kerry in south-western Ireland. There is the so-called Ring of Kerry, a tourist route that has everything Ireland is famous for: ancient monuments, breathtaking scenery, romantic castles, beautiful gardens and colourful villages.

Interviewer: Sounds great!

Tom: Yes, it's definitely worth seeing. I found western Ireland as a whole really fascinating. Farther north on the west coast there is the region of Connemara, where many people still speak Irish, a celtic language, which is more or less impossible to understand, if you only know English.

Interviewer: Talking about understanding people...

Tom: Yes, sometimes it is not so easy to understand people in western Ireland, even when they speak English. But they will always try to help you. That's what I liked best about Ireland, the Irish people. They are so friendly and easy-going. And they like music. I really enjoyed spending an evening in a music pub, where people brought their instruments and everybody joined in the singing.

Interviewer: Well, Ireland seems definitely worth visiting. Thank you, Tom, for being with us today. In our next programme Stella Anderson is going to talk about her journey through Alaska...

Listening Comprehension 2: Crime

Sarah: Hello, my name is Sarah Wilson, I'm a police-woman and I've been asked by your teacher to talk to you about teenage crime. To begin with I'd like to ask you: which crimes, do you think, are often committed by young people?

Student1: Vandalism or graffiti spraying.

Sarah: Yes...

Student2: Going by bus or train without a valid ticket. Hmm, and yes, stealing. Like shoplifting or taking things from schoolmates.

Sarah: Okay, what else?

Student1: Maybe cyber bullying?

Sarah: Yes, that's something we find more often these days. Can you think of anything else?

Student2: Well, if you hurt someone in a fight.

Sarah: Exactly. You've come up with very common offences committed by young people. I would probably also add robbery to our list. Now, when we talk about teenage crime it is always important to ask why young people commit crimes. Because only if we know their motives, we can do something to prevent them from committing crimes. Have you got any ideas?

- Student1:** I think that many people just want to be part of a group. If they've got the wrong friends, they might do stupid things. If your friends think it's cool to steal lipstick or chewing-gum in a supermarket, you'll probably do it just to fit in, to be part of the group.
- Sarah:** You are absolutely right. That's what we call peer pressure. You do something because the group you want to be part of expects you to do it.
- Student1:** Yes, you don't want the others to think you are a coward.
- Sarah:** That's it. But actually, if you don't do what everybody else does, you have to be quite brave. It takes more courage to say NO than to do something you know is wrong. That takes me to the very common phenomenon of cyber bullying. I know, some people don't think this is a crime, but I do. Let's just define what we understand by cyber bullying. Examples of cyber bullying are mean text messages or emails, false stories about someone sent by email or posted on social networking sites, embarrassing pictures or videos, or fake profiles. The thing about cyber bullying is that it can happen 24 hours a day. The other thing is that cyber bullying is anonymous. It is very difficult to find out who posted a message or a video. At the same time it spreads very quickly. And it is very difficult if not impossible to delete offending pictures or videos once they have been put on the internet.
- The effects of cyber bullying on the victims can be very bad. Kids who are cyberbullied are more likely to use alcohol or drugs, they get bad grades at school, they are depressed and might have health problems. Some of them are so desperate that they try to kill themselves.
- Student2:** Well, making someone so unhappy that they want to kill themselves is definitely a crime.
- Sarah:** That's what I'm saying. So, if you are the victim of cyber bullying, know that it is not YOUR fault. Save the evidence so that you can show it to people who can help you. It is important to find people you can tell about what you are going through and who will help you. It is also important that you protect your accounts. Don't share your passwords with anyone, not even your closest friend. Friendships may not last forever.

Listening Comprehension 3: American cities –Chicago

Interviewer: On our programme “Focus on American cities” we now welcome Miss Lisa Moder from Chicago.

Lisa: Hi! Thanks for inviting me.

Interviewer: Lisa, you moved to Chicago about ten years ago when you accepted a job with a television network in Chicago. Before the show you told me that you love Chicago and would not want to live anywhere else. Can you tell our listeners why they should visit Chicago?

Lisa: I truly believe – and it has been confirmed by others – that Chicago is the best city in the United States to visit or live in. New York is great but Chicago has everything NYC has, except it’s cleaner, greener, and more friendly. Plus it’s just easier to live in.

For travellers it’s a wonderful place to visit. It has great architecture – it has one of the best skylines in the world –, world-class museums, parks, food from around the world, and the amazing and huge lake front. Lake Michigan is so big that you can’t see the other side, so it appears you are on an ocean.

Interviewer: What can you do and see in Chicago?

Lisa: Well, if it’s your first time in Chicago you should definitely go to Millennium Park. This is an amazing art-filled park right downtown. You can listen to a free concert, snap photos of the famous “Bean”, or just enjoy the gardens. Then there is The Loop. This is the heart of the business district. The area is full of some great architecture like the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower, or The Board of Trade. For a different view, you should take the architectural boat tour on the Chicago River.

If you are into shopping, go to Michigan Avenue. This is Chicago’s most popular shopping street. Michigan Avenue’s most popular stretch is just about a mile long –that’s why it is called the Magnificent Mile- and it’s full of all the favourite shops like Macy’s, Nike, the Disney Store and the Apple Store.

One of my favourite parts of the city is the huge, ocean-like lakefront. On warm, sunny days people will be out enjoying the lake by running, cycling, roller blading, boating, walking or just sunning themselves.

Interviewer: What about the people who are interested in culture? Where can they go?

Lisa: Well, they should go to the Museum Campus. It’s a place for a beautiful stroll and one of the best skyline views in the city. On the museum campus there are some of Chicago’s great museums from the Adler Planetarium to the Shedd Aquarium – one of my personal favourites – to the Field Museum of History. And right nearby, you have the Art Institute of Chicago.

Interviewer: How do you get around in Chicago?

Lisa: Public transport is great in Chicago – so much so that many people don't own a car. To get around, you simply walk, ride your bike, or use the trains or buses. All you need is a so-called CTA card (Chicago Transport Authority).

Interviewer: What about food?

Lisa: Chicago has hundreds of restaurants and bars of all varieties and ethnicities. From Ethiopian to Thai to sushi to Peruvian, you can find anything in Chicago.

Interviewer: Now that we've heard so much about Chicago, when is the best time to visit?

Lisa: Personally, I like all seasons, but I'd say the best times to visit are spring, summer, and fall – between May and September or October.

Interviewer: Lisa, thank you for joining us today.

Lisa: It was my pleasure.

Listening Comprehension 4: People talk about their jobs

1. Melanie, executive director of public relations

I have had my job for just over three years. I've never had to find a job, they've always kind of found me. And I've always known I wanted to do publicity, since college, when a professor said I'd be really good at it, and I started doing publicity for all the theater shows there.

In my job you have to be a good multi-tasker. I have to do a lot of things at the same time: make a call, write an e-mail or a press release. I have no filing system, and a lot of stuff is all in my head. I am an audio person. If I write something down, I stop listening. I don't write notes, I listen.

I enjoy about 80 percent of what I do. There isn't a day when I sit and think, "Oh my God, I can't stand doing this." I don't do the same thing every day. Some days I sit and write, other days it's celebrity stuff. It doesn't ever get boring. There are a few people I don't like working with because they are difficult but I guess one forgets about the bad things quickly because the good things are really good.

I talk about my job quite often because people are interested in it. Lots of people have heard of my company and they know some of my clients. I also have a lot of friends from work—colleagues, clients.

I guess what makes my work meaningful is the relationships. If I weren't doing this job, I'd probably do something similar. If I didn't need the money to pay my bills, I'd work in a nonprofit organization. I think eventually that's what I want to do. I feel really lucky that I have my job, something I don't mind doing every day.

2. Edward, engineer

I have been in my current job for almost ten years. When I was a kid I always built things. My father built little houses in the backyard. At first I would just put nails in a log, then I started nailing pieces of wood together. I was four or five when I actually nailed something together that looked like something you would find in real life.

I thought I was going to be a carpenter. Then I worked in construction, and I noticed that the young guys were having a good time but the old guys looked exhausted and worn out. I realized that it would be more fun to design things.

At school my maths teachers never really explained what maths could be used for. It was when I started learning engineering and physics that I realized maths could be used to solve real problems. It's pretty amazing when you think about it—you can sit down with a piece of paper and design everything before you even build it.

3. Julia, Primary School teacher

I've always wanted to be a teacher. I've always wanted to work with children. As a Primary School teacher, however, you do not only teach Reading, Writing or Maths, you also need to make sure the children develop emotionally and socially. Teaching is definitely not just a job like any other. Anyone can teach, but to teach well and care for the people you're teaching you've got to be really committed.

Teaching can be really entertaining, too. Kids always say what they are thinking and don't really think if it is appropriate. For example, when I was still a student, a teacher asked one of her pupils to take something to a colleague but the pupil didn't know who she meant. After describing the person, the pupil said: "Oh, you mean the lady with the beard!" I absolutely love my job. I wake up and think "I'm ready to go to school." I love that you work with young people and can make a difference.

I know that the holidays are long, but going away during the school holidays is really expensive. Also, you can't take time off during the school year as you can in other jobs.

It is a stressful job, too, because there's never enough time to do everything you want to do, but you have to get used to that!

Listening Comprehension 5: Food – Healthy eating

Interviewer: What we eat is important for our health but it seems that for every expert who tells you a certain food is good for you, you'll find another saying exactly the opposite.

Today we have asked an expert to give us a few tips on healthy eating.
Welcome, Dr. Elisabeth Stark.

Dr Stark: Hello. Thank you for inviting me.

Interviewer: Dr Stark, if I wanted to change my eating habits, what would you tell me to do?

Dr Stark: Well, I'd say it's always best to set yourself small goals and change your habits a little bit at a time. Radical changes are seldom successful.
As a first step it's important that you prepare more of your own meals. This can help you take charge of what you're eating and you know exactly what goes into your food. Avoid packaged and processed foods, choose fresh ingredients instead. Read the labels. It's important to know what's in your food as there are often large amounts of sugar and salt hidden in packaged food, even food claiming to be healthy.
Drink lots of water, but avoid sugary drinks. If you don't drink enough you will become dehydrated and feel tired.

Interviewer: Does it matter how much I eat as long as it is healthy stuff?

Dr Stark: Of course, it's important to only eat as much food as your body needs. You should feel satisfied at the end of a meal, but not stuffed. We all need a balance of carbohydrates, protein, fat, fiber, vitamins, and minerals to keep our body healthy.

Interviewer: Are there any foods I should avoid?

Dr Stark: Try not to think of certain foods as "off-limits." When you ban certain foods or food groups, it is natural to want those foods more. Instead eat smaller portions of unhealthy foods and do not eat them as often. Also think smaller portions. When dining out split a dish with a friend, and don't order supersized anything.
It's also important that you take your time when eating. Stop eating before you feel full. It takes a few minutes for your brain to tell your body that it has had enough food, so eat slowly. Avoid eating in front of the TV or computer because that often means you eat more than you should.

Interviewer: Is it important when I eat?

- Dr Stark:** Of course, it's not just what you eat, but when you eat. You should definitely eat breakfast, and then smaller meals throughout the day. Eating small, healthy meals keeps your energy up. Avoid eating at night. Try to eat dinner early and fast for 14-16 hours until breakfast the next morning. Studies suggest that giving your digestive system a long break each day may help you to keep your weight.
- Interviewer:** What kind of food should be at the top of my list?
- Dr Stark:** Eat the recommended daily minimum of five servings of fruit and vegetables. It will fill you up and help you cut back on unhealthy foods. Fruits and vegetables are low in calories but very nutritious which means they are full of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fiber.
- Interviewer:** What about salt, sugar or fat?
- Dr Stark:** Reduce your intake of salt, sugar and unhealthy fat. Make sure you eat healthy fat instead. It is needed to nourish your brain, heart, and cells, as well as your hair, skin and nails. You find healthy fats in olive oil, avocados, nuts, salmon, sardines, or walnuts, for example. Healthy eating means consuming the right quantities of foods from all food groups: we should eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and nuts, we should eat more healthy fats, and we should consume as little simple sugars as possible and reduce our intake of salt.
- Interviewer:** Thank you Dr. Stark. I think your tips have been very helpful for our listeners.
- Dr. Stark:** You're welcome.

Listening Comprehension 6: Australia

Taking a gap year may be one of the best things you are ever going to do. For me it was a time of studying hard, socializing a lot, meeting many people from different cultures, doing a lot of sports, learning about the country I had chosen for my gap year, and learning a lot about myself.

Why did I choose Australia? Well, I felt the need to go somewhere far away for some time in order to try something new, something different, something challenging. Since Australia is far away from Europe and since I knew very little about the continent, I decided to spend my gap year "Down Under".

Australia has beautiful landscapes, unique animals, a wonderful climate, tasty food and much more. It's the country of long distances. Canberra, the capital of Australia, is located 3 hours away from Sydney and 8 hours from Melbourne. Australians are used to travelling long distances.

Most Australians speak "Standard Australian" which is pretty close to the American accent. Of course, there are differences and Australians pronounce words a bit differently but after some time I had no trouble understanding them.

Aboriginal culture is another point which makes Australia unique. Aborigines, the native people of Australia, have lived there for more than 50,000 years and learning something about their history is something a student should do.

Australians like to say "no worries" and they do like to live according to this principle too. No matter how difficult an exam or a problem is, they will stay relaxed. Australians do not like to panic. Most Australians are funny, calm, do not take things unnecessarily serious and they generally do not behave as "stressed" or "hectic" as some Europeans do.

At the end of my gap year my host family took me to some of the most interesting places in Australia as there wasn't much opportunity to travel during the school year.

Our first stop was Sydney. When in Sydney a visit to the Sydney Opera House is a must. It's one of the most famous 20th century buildings in the world! The Sydney Harbour Bridge is one of Sydney's most famous landmarks. The Bridge Climb takes you along catwalks, up ladders, and steadily to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The tour lasts for about 3 1/2 hours but the view from the top is worth the effort.

From Sydney we flew to Cairns where we wanted to explore the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world and the only living thing on earth visible from space! The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef with over 3,000 individual reef systems. We went snorkelling, took a tour on a glass-bottomed boat, went whale watching and even got to swim with dolphins. It was a wonderful experience!

From Cairns we took a flight to Darwin. There we rented a car as we wanted to go to Kakadu National Park for a few days. The park has seven different regions but we did not have enough time to see all of them. I was really fascinated by the crocodiles – there are about 10,000 crocodiles in Kakadu National Park and – and the amazing rock art. The paintings provide a fascinating record of Aboriginal life over thousands of years. Some of the paintings are 20,000 years old!

Our last stop was Alice Springs, which is situated in the centre of Australia. From there we drove to Uluru also known as Ayers Rock. Uluru is one of Australia's most famous landmarks and it is sacred to the Anangu, the Aboriginal people of the area. Uluru appears to change colour at different times of the day and year, it glows red at sunrise and sunset, for example.

Well, from Alice Springs it was back to Sydney and then back to Europe but I'm already planning my next trip to the Down Under! There is still a lot more to explore!

Listening Comprehension 7: Body Art – Tattoos

Good morning, today's programme is about tattoos. More specific, tattoos on teenagers, a growing trend today.

For many parents it is a shock when their teenage son or daughter tells them that they want to have a tattoo. Parents are often worried about the health risk and they are afraid that their kids will one day regret their decision. Let's be honest, styles change over time and a design that you like as a teenager you may find awful as a middle aged person. So why do teenagers get tattoos? We've asked some of them and here is what they said.

Harry, who is 18 years old, told us that his tattoo is his hockey team's slogan. He has been playing hockey in this team for some years now. "My tattoo stands for all the years I have been part of this team, for all the things I learned there and all the friends I made. I don't think that I will ever regret having it", he says.

Another 18-year-old, Clara, said, "I like tattoos. All my tattoos have meanings and are a way of expressing myself. One says 'mum' and it's a way of showing how much my mum has done for me. She is a single parent and we have been very close as long as I can remember. She is not only my mum but also my best friend. My other tattoo is a butterfly. For me it means freedom and stands for all the things that I hope to do and reach in my life. Both tattoos are an expression of who I am or who I want to be."

These are just two examples. Of course, there are other reasons why teens may decide to get a tattoo. Sometimes it's just because they want to fit in. Their friends have tattoos, so they want one too. But it is a fact that you are less likely to regret your decision if the tattoo has a special meaning for you.

But how does society react? Before their 18th birthday young people need their parents' permission if they want to have a tattoo. And it comes as no surprise that many parents are not too happy with their children wanting a tattoo. Although many teenagers have them, some people still think that getting tattoos is a sign of protest or rebellion. But this does no longer seem to be true. Today tattoos are generally accepted as a form of body art. Of course, everybody has their own opinion about teenagers getting tattoos. But at the end of the day the most important thing is how the young people feel about it because they will have to live with their tattoo for the rest of their life.

Listening Comprehension 8: A fair world

Interviewer: Welcome to our programme. Today we are talking to Thomas Smith, an expert on Fairtrade. Mr Smith, what is Fairtrade?

Smith: Well, not all trade is fair. In most cases the farmers and workers, who actually produce the goods, don't get a fair share of the profits. Let me give you an example. Let's take a normal chocolate bar. If you buy just any chocolate in the supermarket the retailer, that means the company who sells the chocolate, gets 33% of the price you pay, the company which produces the chocolate gets about 40%, the people who transport and wrap the chocolate get 22%. That leaves exactly 5% of the price for the farmers who produce the cocoa beans.

Interviewer: Wow. That means that the people who produce the most important ingredient of chocolate, namely cocoa, get very little money.

Smith: Exactly. Cocoa grows in hot, rainy climates. African countries produce 73% of the world's cocoa. We in Europe and the USA want to buy cheap chocolate, so we save money by not paying the farmers a fair price for their products. So they stay poor.

Interviewer: And Fairtrade?

Smith: Fairtrade sees the farmers as their partners and offers them an opportunity to make a real living by guaranteeing them a minimum price. That means they promise that they will pay the farmers at least a certain minimum price even if all the other companies pay less. Let's get back to our chocolate bar. If you buy Fairtrade chocolate, the farmers don't get 5% of the price but 44%.

Interviewer: What a difference!!

- Smith:** Exactly. You can image what a difference that makes in the farmers' lives. Of course, this is not only true for chocolate. With all Fairtrade products you buy, like tea, coffee, bananas, fruit or clothes you support the small farmers or workers mostly in poorer parts of the world. That means that by buying Fairtrade products and paying a fair price we, the consumers, can help the people in poorer countries to lead a better life.
- Interviewer:** Thanks for talking to us, Mr Smith. I'm sure many of our listeners will make sure they buy more Fairtrade products in the future.

Listening Comprehension 9: The world of books

- Paul:** Hi Jane.
- Jane:** Hi Paul, sorry for being late. But I just **had** to finish my book. It was just too thrilling!
- Paul:** I know, you and your books!
- Jane:** Well, it's not as if you didn't like reading!
- Paul:** You are right. Actually I'm reading an interesting book at the moment. It's about a woman on a train who thinks she has seen a murder in one of the houses the train was passing. But she is kind of a strange person and drinks a lot, so people don't really believe what she is saying. But then a woman disappears and...
- Jane:** Stop! Don't tell me everything. I think I have heard people talking about this book, it's quite popular at the moment and I'd like to read it.
- Paul:** I think you should. It's really fascinating, especially if you are into psychological thrillers.
- Jane:** I love them! There is nothing like lying on the sofa on a rainy afternoon and feeling the hairs rise on the back of your neck because the book you are reading is so scary.
- Paul:** Absolutely! It's so easy to forget the time when you are reading a good book, isn't it?
- Jane:** Yes. Only last Sunday I was so lost in my book that it was 2 in the morning before I went to bed. Don't ask me how I felt when I had to get up at 6 in the morning...
- Paul:** (*laughs*) I can imagine! By the way, do you remember, when we were all waiting for the next Harry Potter book to be published? I could not wait to open it and lose myself in the magical world of Harry and his friends.
- Jane:** Same here! Now tell me, who is your favourite character?

- Paul:** Harry, of course! He is just great and it is interesting to watch him grow up and read about all his adventures and his fight against Voldemort.
- Jane:** Yeah, he is cool, but my favourite character is Snape, Harry's teacher who seems to be his enemy. I think he is such an interesting character. Do you like the Harry Potter films too?
- Paul:** Well, actually I do. Of course, not everything is exactly like in the books. But that's only natural. I think the films are thrilling and I like the actors. They are doing a great job. The later films are rather dark and frightening though. I don't think I'd take young children to see them.
- Jane:** No, you wouldn't. Anyway, I think the films are nice but I still prefer the books.
- Paul:** I'm not sure, I like both, although I'm usually not into fantasy books. Most of them are too unrealistic for me. But somehow, Harry Potter is different.
- Jane:** Fortunately everybody likes different things, otherwise the world would be a boring place, don't you think?
- Paul:** Definitely! Well then, what film are we going to watch? After all, we wanted to go to the cinema tonight.
- Jane:** Well *(fade out)*

Listening Comprehension 10: Festivals

People of different religions and cultures celebrate different events on different days. Here are three examples of festivals from around the world.

Holi Festival

Holi is a spring festival, also known as the **festival of colours** or the festival of love. It is an ancient Hindu religious festival which has become popular with non-Hindus in many parts of South Asia, as well as people outside of Asia. In recent years the festival has also spread to parts of Europe and North America.

Holi celebrations start on the night before Holi with a Holika bonfire where people come together, sing and dance. The next morning the participants play, chase and colour each other with dry powder and coloured water. Anyone and everyone is fair game, friend or stranger, rich or poor, man or woman, children and older people. People celebrate in the streets, in parks, or outside temples and buildings. People visit family and friends, throw colours on each other, laugh and chat, then share special Holi food and drinks.

The festival date varies every year, it is usually celebrated in February or March. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the end of winter. For many it is a time to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships. It is also celebrated as a thanksgiving for a good harvest.

St Patrick's Day

Every year on March 17, the Irish and the Irish-at-heart all over the world celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**. What began as a religious holiday has become an international festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and a lot of green.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he was kept prisoner for six years. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to religion. After six years, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice – which he believed to be God's – spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was kept prisoner, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick had a dream in which an angel told him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Patrick became a priest and was sent back to Ireland. His mission was to look after the Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.

At any St. Patrick's Day event you attend these days, you will see a lot of green. There isn't really one reason why this is the official colour of St. Patrick's Day, but the colour green has a lot of connections to Ireland and springtime. There's green in the Irish flag, Ireland is nicknamed the "Emerald Isle", and it's the colour of shamrocks. According to legend, St. Patrick used shamrocks, the three-leaf clovers, to explain the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to the Irish.

Thanksgiving in the USA

In the United States Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It has been an annual holiday in the United States since 1863.

Thanksgiving Day is a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. The meal often includes a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables. Thanksgiving Day is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have.

Thanksgiving Day parades are held in some cities and towns on or around Thanksgiving Day. Some parades or festivities also mark the opening of the Christmas shopping season. Some people have a four-day weekend so it is a popular time for trips and to visit family and friends.

Most government offices, businesses, schools and other organizations are closed on Thanksgiving Day. Public transport systems do not usually run on their regular timetables, so that everyone has a chance to spend time with their families.