SPEECH MAKING: MOTHER’S DAY CUSTOMS

LEVEL
Intermediate - Advanced

GOALS
Learn about one of the biggest public holidays in the U.S. Develop public speaking skills.

MATERIALS
- Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Reading PDF
- Mother’s Day: Reading Worksheet
- Speech Template

PREPARATION
1) Download Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Reading PDF. At least one copy per group is needed, preferably one copy per student.
2) Download Mother’s Day: Reading Worksheet. At least one copy is needed per group, preferably one copy per student.
3) Download the Speech Template, or create your own version. At least one copy is needed per group, preferably one copy per student.
4) Download one Speech Template: Example Speech as a reference if needed.

PROCEDURES
1) Begin the lesson by activating student schema. Ask the class what they know about Mother’s Day.
2) Give each student (or group) a copy of Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Reading PDF and the Mother’s Day: Reading Worksheet.
3) Have the students read the article about Mother’s Day on the second page of the Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Reading PDF.
4) As a class, read the questions on the Mother’s Day: Reading Worksheet and, in groups, have the students write their answers. Clarify the bold words for student understanding.
5) Review the answers to the worksheet as a class. The answers can be used as the key points in the students’ Mother’s Day speeches.
6) In their groups, have students discuss the Mother’s Day holiday history and traditions. Alternatively, students can brainstorm what makes their mothers special OR how mothers are celebrated in their country and speak on those topics as well.
7) Using the brainstormed ideas, have the students fill out their Mother’s Day Speech Template.
8) In small groups have the students practice their speeches with each other.
9) Have each student present their Mother’s Day speech to the class.
10) As a follow-up you can assign students to write their speech in paragraph form.

ADAPT IT TO YOUR CLASS
- If the activity is too long, have students write their speeches for homework and present them during the following class.
• Adapt the language difficulty for students with lower English levels by writing a single speech as a group that can then be practiced in pairs.
MOTHER’S DAY: READING WORKSHEET

- Which country was the first to establish a day to recognize mothers?
- When was Mother’s Day first introduced in the United States?
- Who was responsible for first introducing the idea of Mother’s Day in the United States?
- How did Anna Jarvis make Mother’s Day an official holiday in the United States?
- Which state in the United States was the first state to proclaim Mother’s Day as a holiday?
- On which day is Mother’s Day officially recognized in the United States?
- In what year was Mother’s Day first celebrated as a national holiday?
- What do American children do for their mother’s on Mother’s Day?
- Which flower is associated with Mother’s Day?
- Mother’s Day is the busiest day of the year for which businesses in the United States? Why?
• Which country was one of the first to establish a day to recognize mothers? – Great Britain was one of the first countries to establish a day to recognize mothers.

• When was Mother’s Day first introduced in the United States? – It was introduced in 1872.

• Who was responsible for first introducing the idea of Mother’s Day in the United States? – Julia Ward Howe was responsible for first introducing Mother’s Day.

• How did Anna Jarvis make Mother’s Day an official holiday in the United States? – She began writing to members of Congress in the U.S. government.

• Which state in the United States was the first state to proclaim Mother’s Day as a holiday? – West Virgina was the first state to proclaim Mother’s Day as a holiday.

• On which day is Mother’s Day officially recognized in the United States? – It is recognized on the second Sunday of May.

• In what year was Mother’s Day first celebrated as a national holiday? – It was first celebrated as a national holiday in 1914.

• What do American children do for their mother’s on Mother’s Day? – Children serve their mothers breakfast and give gifts they have made themselves or bought.

• Which flower is associated with Mother’s Day? – Red carnations are the flower associated with Mother’s Day.

• Mother’s Day is the busiest day of the year for which businesses in the United States? Why? – It is the busiest day for restaurants because Americans take their moms out to eat.
SPEECH TEMPLATE

- Introduce yourself
- Introduce your topic
- Discuss topic #1
- Discuss topic #2
- Discuss topic #3
- Repeat #1 in a sentence
- Repeat #2 in a sentence
- Repeat #3 in a sentence
- Closing statement/Thanks
Good afternoon everyone. My name is ____.

Today, I’d like to talk about Mother’s Day and what makes my mom special.

Mother’s Day first began in the U.S. in 1872. Thanks to the work of Anna Jarvis, Mother’s Day became a national holiday in 1914. This year is the 100th anniversary of the holiday.

In conclusion, Mother’s Day has a long history.

My mom is special to me because she loves me, listens to me when I need to talk and always knows how to cheer me up. Everything she does makes her special to me.

Thanks for listening. Do you have any questions?