

# Mother's Day (Reading & Vocabulary)

**Ex1: Ask and answer the questions below with a partner or in small groups.**

1. Is Mother's Day celebrated in your country? What date is it on?
2. Do you know anything about the origins of Mother's day?
3. Do you know any informal synonyms in English for 'mother'?



## Introduction:

Mother's Day is an annual celebration of mothers and mother figures around the world. It is a special day dedicated to showing **appreciation** and **gratitude** for the love, care, and **sacrifices** that mothers make for their children.

It is celebrated on the second Sunday of May in many countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and several European countries, but is also celebrated in other countries on various different dates. In the United Kingdom, for example, it is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which usually falls in late March or early April.

**Ex 2: Read, and complete the text with the missing words below.**

## The Origins of Mother's Day

Traditional celebrations of mothers and **motherhood** have existed throughout the world for thousands of years. Some of these have their origins in 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Greek and Roman civilizations, where goddesses were **worshipped** for their maternal **nurturing** qualities. In other countries the celebration has its roots in the early Christian festival of Mothering Sunday, which was a day to 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Virgin Mary and visit one's "mother church".

The modern American version is believed to have originated in West Virginia, where, 3. \_\_\_\_\_ by her mother's work as an 4. \_\_\_\_\_ and **social worker**, a woman named Anna Jarvis **campaigned** to **establish** a day to honour mothers. The first Mother's Day was celebrated here in 1908, and it became an official national holiday in the United States in 1914.

## Customs

Although the origins and dates of Mother's Day may 5. \_\_\_\_\_, the customs are **largely** similar around the world. On the day, families come together, and mothers and mother figures are shown appreciation for all they do, with **greeting cards**, flowers, chocolates, or other gifts. Younger children often prepare **handmade** cards. In addition, it is 6. \_\_\_\_\_ to serve a special meal at home, such as a Sunday roast. Nowadays, it is also common, however, for families to celebrate in a restaurant.




While Mother's Day is a 7. \_\_\_\_\_ occasion for many, it can also be a challenging time for those who have lost their mothers or for those who may have 8. \_\_\_\_\_ relationships with their mothers. We should remember that the holiday is not only a celebration of biological mothers, but also **stepmothers**, grandmothers, aunts, or other positive **maternal** figures in our lives.

activist    honour    complicated    joyous    ancient    inspired    differ    customary

**Ex 3:****Vocabulary Focus**

Read the introduction and the text again, and discuss the meaning of the words/phrases in bold print with a partner, before matching the vocabulary to the definitions below.

- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1. appreciate n  | A. show reverence and respect towards a deity or a religious figure.                  |  |
| 2. gratitude n   | B. care for and support the growth and development of someone.                        |   |
| 3. sacrifice n   | C. the wife of someone's father who is not their biological mother.                   |   |
| 4. motherhood n  | D. the state or experience of being a mother .  |   |
| 5. worship v     | E. set up or create something, often a business, organization, or institution.        |   |
| 6. nurture v     | F. actively promote a particular idea or cause by making it widely known.             |   |
| 7. campaign v    | G. a feeling of thankfulness for something.   |   |
| 8. establish v   | H. to a great extent / mostly.  |   |
| 9. largely adv   | I. the act of giving up something of value to help others, or achieve something else. |   |
| 10. handmade adj | J. made by hand, rather than by a machine or in a factory .                           |   |
| 11. stepmother n | K. recognise, value and be thankful for the good qualities of someone/something.      |   |
| 12. maternal adj | L. relating to or characteristic of a mother.   |   |

**Ex 4: What do you remember from the text? Ask and answer the questions below in pairs.**

1. What is the purpose of Mother's Day?
2. When is Mother's Day celebrated in the United Kingdom?
3. Who was Anna Jarvis and what did she do?
4. When was the first official Mother's Day celebrated in the United States?
5. What is the origin of Mothering Sunday?
6. Why can Mother's Day be a difficult day for some people?
7. Besides biological mothers, which other maternal figures can be celebrated on Mother's Day?

**Ex 5: Match the 2 halves of the quotes about mothers.**

**Authors:** 1. Victor Hugo 2. Honoré de Balzac 3. Unknown 4. Unknown 5. Robert A. Heinlein

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. "A mother's arms are made of tenderness                 | A. but their hearts forever."                  |
| 2. "The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom    | B. your neck are the arms of your children."   |
| 3. "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, | C. and children sleep soundly in them."        |
| 4. "The most precious jewels you'll ever have around       | D. not a biological relation."                 |
| 5. "Being a mother is an attitude,                         | E. of which you will always find forgiveness." |

**Ex 6: Ask and answer the questions below in pairs.**

1. How is Mother's Day celebrated in your country? Do people in your country have any customs which were not mentioned in the text?
2. Do you have any plans for this year's Mother's Day celebration?
3. Are there any famous motherly figures who inspire you or have had an impact on your life?

**Ex 7: Match the collocations halves below, before reading through the lesson again to check.**

- (a) Match the collocations halves below, before reading through the lesson again to check.  
(b) Discuss the meaning of the collocations with your partner.

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. an official   | A. relationship         |
| 2. show          | B. national holiday     |
| 3. a complicated | C. mother               |
| 4. throughout    | D. cards                |
| 5. maternal      | E. jewels               |
| 6. a Sunday      | F. worker               |
| 7. a social      | G. the world            |
| 8. a biological  | H. appreciation for sth |
| 9. greeting      | I. figures              |
| 10. precious     | J. soundly              |
| 11. sleep        | K. roast                |

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ex 8: Complete the table below with the correct word forms.**

word	noun form
appreciate v	
campaign v	
forgive v	
tender adj	
grateful adj	

word	verb form
sacrifice n	
different adj	
word	adjective form
custom n	
biology n	

**Ex 9: Pronunciation**

- (a) Listen to your teacher reading the words in exercise 8, and make note of the number of syllables in each word beside it.  
(b) Listen to your teacher repeating the words, and underline the main stressed syllable in each word.

**Ex 10: Speaking Practice**

1. How do you express **gratitude** to the people who have made **sacrifices** for you?
2. What do you think are some of the challenges of **motherhood**?
3. What qualities do you think are important for **nurturing** children?
4. What are some good habits which allow us to **sleep soundly** at night?
5. What characteristics or skills does a person need to be a **social worker**?
6. Can you think of any famous **activists** from history or the present day?
7. Have you ever been involved in a **campaign** to **establish** or change something in your community?
8. What is your most **precious** possession?
9. Is it **customary** to celebrate Father's Day in your country? If so, how does it differ to Mother's Day?
10. Do you think **greeting cards** are a good way to **show appreciation**? Have you ever received or made **handmade** greeting cards?



# Teacher's Notes

**Lesson:** Mother's Day (Reading & Vocabulary)

**Level:** B1 / B2 -

**Time:** 1.5 hours +

## Preparation:

- Print or display handouts.

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## Teaching Method:

### Step 1:

- Put students into pairs or small groups to discuss the questions in exercise 1.
- Elicit some answers to the questions around the room. You may want to explain the following...
  - a) **Mom** - This is a popular informal name for "mother" in North America.
  - b) **Mum** - This is a common informal name for "mother" in the United Kingdom and other parts of the Commonwealth.
  - c) **Mam or Mammy** - These informal names for "mother" are commonly used in Ireland, Northern England, and some parts of the United States.
  - d) **Ma** - This is a common informal name for "mother" in Australia and some parts of the United States.
  - e) **Momma or Mamma** - These informal names for "mother" are used in the southern United States and some African American communities.
  - f) **Amma** - This is a common informal name for "mother" in some parts of India.

### Step 2:

- Read through the introduction as a class, checking their understanding of **dedicate** and **Lent**.

***Note:** According to the Christian religion, Lent is the 40 days before Easter, a period during which, for religious reasons, some people stop doing particular things that they enjoy.*

### Step 3:

- Give the students about 8 minutes to read through the text in exercise 2, completing the gaps with the missing words provided below. You may want to tell them that the American English spelling of **honour** is **honor**.
- Check the answers as a class, giving definitions and further explanation where required.

### Step 4:

- Students read the introduction and text in exercise 2 again, and, with a partner, discuss the meaning of the words/phrases in bold print.

### Step 5:

- Students work individually, matching the vocabulary to the definitions given in exercise 3 before comparing their answers in pairs. You may want to allow them to use a dictionary and/or explain **reverence**, **deity**, **give up**, **achieve** and **characteristic**.
- Go through the answers with the class, giving further explanations/examples where required and drill correct pronunciation.

### Step 6:

- Put the students into new pairs or small groups to ask and answer the comprehension questions in exercise 4. Monitor as they do this, giving support where required, and tell them to scan the text again for any information that they don't remember.
- Elicit answers around the class.

# Teacher's Notes & Answers

**Lesson:** Mother's Day (Reading & Vocabulary)

**Level:** B1 / B2 -

**Time:** 1 hour +

**Step 7:**

- Students match the two halves of quotes about mothers (ex 5), before comparing with a partner. You should check their understanding of/give definitions for **tenderness**, **abyss**, **precious**, **jewels**, **sleep soundly**, and **attitude**.
- Elicit answers around the room and ask them what their favourite quote was.

**Step 8:**

- Students match the collocation halves in exercise 7, before comparing with a partner, scanning back through the lesson to check their answers, and discussing the meaning of the collocations in pairs.
- Correct the answers as a class, giving definitions/further explanation where required.

**Step 9:**

- Students complete the table with the correct word forms, before comparing their answers in pairs. You might want to warn them that some verbs have the same noun form.
- You might want to copy the table to the board while they are doing this (if you are not displaying the page already).
- Elicit answers around the room and add them to the board/display.

**Step 10:**

- Slowly, read the words in exercise 8 aloud to the class. The students should listen carefully and write the number of syllables they hear beside each word.
- Elicit answers around the room, writing the number of syllables next to the words on the board/display.

**Step 11:**

- Slowly, read the words in exercise 8 again. This time the students should underline the main stressed syllable in each word.
- Elicit answers around the room, underlining the main stressed syllable on the board/display.
- Finally, have the students repeat each word after you.

**Step 12:**

- Students work in pairs/small groups asking and answering the questions in exercise 10 to further practise the vocabulary learnt. Monitor as they do this giving support and correction where required.

Answers:							
Exercise 2:	Exercise 3:		Exercise 5:	Exercise 7:		Exercise 8:	
1. ancient	1. K	9. H	1. C	1. B	9. D	noun forms	verb forms
2. honour	2. G	10. J	2. E	2. H	10. E	appreciation	sacrifice
3. inspired	3. I	11. C	3. A	3. A	11. J	campaign	differ
4. activist	4. D	12. L	4. B	4. G		forgiveness	adjective forms
5. differ	5. A		5. D	5. I		tenderness	
6. customary	6. B			6. K		gratitude	
7. joyous	7. F			7. F			customary
8. complicated	8. E			8. C			biological

# Answers Continued & Pronunciation

Lesson: Mother's Day (Reading &amp; Vocabulary)

Level: B1 / B2 -

Time: 1 hour +

## Exercise 9:

appreciate	4	appreciation	5	sacrifice	3	sacrifice	3
campaign	2	campaign	2	different	2	differ	2
forgive	2	forgiveness	3	custom	2	customary	4
tender	2	tenderness	3	biology	5	biological	5
grateful	2	gratitude	3				

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Vocabulary:	British:	American:	Vocabulary:	British:	American:
abyss	ə'bis	ə'bis	inspired	in'spaɪəd	in'spaɪərd
activist	'æktɪvɪst	'æktəvəst	jewels	'dʒu:əlz	'dʒuəlz
ancient	'eɪnʃnt	'eɪntʃənt	joyous	'dʒɔɪəs	'dʒɔɪəs
appreciation	ə,pri:'ʃi:ejʃn	ə,pri:'ʃi:ejən	largely	'lɑ:dʒli	'lɑrdʒli
biological	,baɪə's'lɒdʒɪkəl	,baɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl	maternal	mə'tɜ:nl	mə'tɜrnəl
campaign	kæm'peɪn	kæm'peɪn	motherhood	'mʌðəhʊd	'mʌðə,hʊd
challenging	'tʃælɪndʒɪŋ	'tʃæləndʒɪŋ	nurture	'nɜ:tʃə	'nɜrtʃər
complicated	'kɒmplɪkeɪtɪd	'kəmplə'keɪtəd	official	ə'fɪʃəl	ə'fɪʃəl
customary	'kʌstəməri	'kʌstə'məri	precious	'preʃəs	'preʃəs
dedicate	'dedɪkeɪt	'dedə'keɪt	sacrifice	'sækrɪfaɪs	'sækrə'faɪs
differ	'dɪfə	'dɪfər	soundly	'saʊndli	'saʊndli
establish	ɪ'stæblɪʃ	ɪ'stæblɪʃ	stepmother	'step,mʌðə	'step,mʌðər
figure	'fɪɡə	'fɪɡjər	tenderness	'tendənɪs	'tendərnəs
grateful	'greɪtful	'greɪtfəl	throughout	θru:'aʊt	θru'aʊt
gratitude	'grætɪtju:d	'grætə'tud	worship	'wɜ:ʃɪp	'wɜrfəp
greeting	'gri:tɪŋ	'grɪtɪŋ			
handmade	'hænd'meɪd	'hænd'meɪd			
honour	'ɒnə	'ənər			

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