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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/09/14

## Autumn

Today, let's talk about autumn. What exactly is autumn? It is a season that follows summer and is before winter. Autumn starts in Britain on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It is on this day that daylight and night are the same length of time. The nights now get longer and the days shorter.

Autumn is probably the most colourful time of year. It is when the leaves change colour. Many leaves turn into vivid autumn red, yellow and brown colours that so many people love to see. Autumn is also conker season when the conkers fall from Horse Chestnut trees.

Autumn is the time of falling leaves. Many leaves are blown off the trees. Often they form a magnificent carpet of different coloured leaves on the ground. It is a sign that winter is on its way!

In America autumn is known as Fall. The word 'Fall', which means 'fall of the leaf', or 'fall of the year', is actually an old 16<sup>th</sup> century English word. It was used in North America by English emigrants. While Fall became a commonly used word in the USA, in England it became obsolete.

Autumn is a time of wild berries, like blackberries and elderberries. Farmers plough their fields in readiness for the following year's harvest. In many countries Harvest Festivals take place in schools and churches. It is also pumpkin season for those who love pumpkin pie or Halloween!

In Europe temperatures turn cooler. There may be an Indian Summer. Autumn in Europe is usually windy and rainy, with misty and foggy mornings in November. There is also some early morning dew. Autumn sees birds migrate south to warmer climates, like Africa, where they will stay until the spring. Squirrels store up with acorns in readiness of winter. Other animals, like dormice, prepare to hibernate.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about autumn. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

### Student A questions

- 1) What happens on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September?
- 2) What is autumn?
- 3) What is the American word for autumn?
- 4) What is a pumpkin?
- 5) What is a squirrel and a dormouse?

### Student B questions

- 1) What is a Harvest Festival?
- 2) What is an Indian summer?
- 3) Name the fruit.
- 4) What happens in Europe in November?
- 5) What do birds do? Why?

**Category: Weather / Seasons / Autumn  
Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Autumn**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs* – Choose three things from the article about autumn. Write them below. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Add three other things of your own about autumn. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*On the board / In threes* – List the three other seasons. Talk about each of them. Which season is best? *5 mins.*

*The teacher* will choose some students to hear their findings.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Which is your favourite season? Why?
- 3) What do you like to do in autumn?
- 4) What special foods do you eat in the autumn?
- 5) Do you go into the countryside in the autumn? If yes, where?
- 6) When did you last experience an Indian summer?
- 7) Can you think of three animals that will hibernate over winter?
- 8) Is it foggy in November in your country?
- 9) Do you like pumpkin pie, or pumpkin soup?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* You are a guest (max 4), or you are the interviewer, in the *Discussion FM* studio. Today's interview is: *The best season. 10 mins.*

- 1) Autumn.
- 2) Winter.
- 3) Spring.
- 4) Summer.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

**SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2**

*In pairs* - *Student A* lives in Europe. *Student B* lives in Australia. You are speaking on a social network site. Start a conversation about what autumn means to you in *your* country. *5 mins.*

**SPEAKING – DISCUSSION**

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*What you like about Autumn!*

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) When did you last attend a Harvest Festival?
- 3) When did you last go blackberry picking?
- 4) Can you think of any autumn festivals that take place in your area?
- 5) When you were young did you collect conkers?
- 6) Did you ever play a game of conkers?
- 7) What do you think of autumn?
- 8) What is the difference between mist and fog?
- 9) What do you do with fallen leaves?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Autumn

Today, let's talk about (1)\_\_. What exactly is autumn? It is a (2)\_\_ that follows summer and is before winter. Autumn starts in Britain on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It is on this day that daylight and night are the same length of time. The nights now get longer and the days shorter.

Autumn is (3)\_\_ the most (4)\_\_ time of year. It is when the leaves change colour. Many leaves turn into (5)\_\_ autumn red, yellow and brown colours that so many people love to see. Autumn is also conker season when the (6)\_\_ fall from Horse Chestnut trees.

Autumn is the time of falling leaves. Many leaves are blown off the trees. Often they form a (7)\_\_ carpet of different coloured leaves on the ground. It is a (8)\_\_ that winter is on its way!

**season / conkers / magnificent / autumn / vivid / probably / sign / colourful**

In America autumn is known as (1)\_\_. The word 'Fall', which means 'fall of the leaf', or 'fall of the year', is actually an old 16<sup>th</sup> century English word. It was used in North America by English (2)\_\_. While Fall became a commonly used word in the USA, in England it became obsolete.

Autumn is a time of wild berries, like blackberries and elderberries. Farmers (3)\_\_ their fields in readiness for the following year's harvest. In many countries Harvest Festivals take place in schools and churches. It is also pumpkin season for those who love pumpkin pie or (4)\_\_!

In Europe temperatures turn cooler. There may be an Indian Summer. Autumn in Europe is usually windy and rainy, with (5)\_\_ and foggy mornings in November. There is also some early morning (6)\_\_. Autumn sees birds (7)\_\_ south to warmer climates, like Africa, where they will stay until the spring. Squirrels store up with acorns in readiness of winter. Other animals, like dormice, prepare to (8)\_\_.

**Halloween / migrate / hibernate / dew / Fall / plough / emigrants / misty**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Autumn

Today, let's talk about autumn. (1)\_\_ exactly is autumn? It is a season (2)\_\_ follows summer and is before winter. Autumn starts in Britain on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It is on (3)\_\_ day that daylight and night are the same length of time. The nights now get longer and the days shorter.

Autumn is probably the (4)\_\_ colourful time of year. It is when the leaves change colour. Many leaves turn into vivid autumn red, yellow and brown colours that so many people love to see. Autumn is (5)\_\_ conker season (6)\_\_ the conkers fall from Horse Chestnut trees.

Autumn is the time of falling leaves. (7)\_\_ leaves are blown off the trees. Often they form a magnificent carpet of different coloured leaves on the ground. It is a sign (8)\_\_ winter is on its way!

**that / when / most / what / many / that / also / this**

In America autumn is known as Fall. The word 'Fall', which means 'fall of the leaf', (1)\_\_ 'fall of the year', is actually an old 16<sup>th</sup> century English word. It was used in North America (2)\_\_ English emigrants. While Fall became a commonly used word in (3)\_\_ USA, in England it became obsolete.

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In Europe temperatures turn cooler. There (6)\_\_ be (7)\_\_ Indian Summer. Autumn in Europe is usually windy and rainy, with misty and foggy mornings (8)\_\_ November. There is also some early morning dew. Autumn sees birds migrate south to warmer climates, like Africa, where they will stay until the spring. Squirrels store up with acorns in readiness of winter. Other animals, like dormice, prepare to hibernate.

**in / by / an / or / may / for / the / who**



**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**WRITING/SPELLING**

**Autumn**

Today, let's \_\_\_\_\_. What exactly is autumn? It is a season that follows summer and is before winter. Autumn starts in Britain on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It is on this day that daylight and night are the same length of time. The nights now get longer \_\_\_\_\_.

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**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1) On the board - In pairs / As a class - Write down 20 things you know about Autumn.** Talk about them all! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters -** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The leaves \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Autumn \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) In Autumn \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: Autumn.** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework -** Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Autumn.** Your email can be read out in class.

**SPELLING**

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) autumn
- 2) season
- 3) dormice
- 4) length
- 5) probably
- 6) colourful
- 7) vivid
- 8) conkers
- 9) chestnut
- 10) squirrels

**SPELLING**

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) magnificent
- 12) hibernate
- 13) different
- 14) emigrants
- 15) obsolete
- 16) elderberries
- 17) plough
- 18) readiness
- 19) Halloween
- 20) Foggy

Autumn - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014