

# Lesson 15: Holiday

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*Answer the questions based on the conversation between co-workers Rhonda and Mac:*

- 1. Mac is working on...**
  - a. reports
  - b. presentations
  - c. sales calls
- 2. Mac and Rhonda have a lot of work because...**
  - a. a big company event is coming up
  - b. the supervisor gave them a lot to do
  - c. they just got back from a holiday
- 3. How does Mac feel about Mr. Green?**
  - a. he's annoyed at him
  - b. he feels sorry for him
  - c. he respects him
- 4. After Rhonda leaves work, she's going to...**
  - a. the airport
  - b. her relatives' house
  - c. the supermarket
- 5. Mac and his wife usually spend Thanksgiving...**
  - a. at a restaurant
  - b. cooking at home
  - c. with Mac's parents
- 6. Rhonda suggests...**
  - a. making a pumpkin pie for Mr. Green
  - b. spending the holiday together
  - c. taking a road trip
- 7. Mac doesn't want to...**
  - a. help prepare the turkey
  - b. invite Mr. Green to Thanksgiving
  - c. work late on the holiday
- 8. Does Rhonda change her mind based on what Mac says?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

## Conversation Text

**Mac:** Man, I can't wait for this week to end and for Thanksgiving to begin. If I see one more report, **I'm gonna pull my hair out**.

**Rhonda:** This has really been the week from hell. Mr. Green sure **piles on the work** every time we prepare to take off for a holiday.

**Mac:** That's because he's a **tightwad**. **It wouldn't be the end of the world** if he allowed his employees to have a few paid days off. That's why he's made this last week so tough – he wants to **squeeze out** the productivity before the holiday. I'm surprised he hasn't **chained** us to our desks yet.

**Rhonda:** I know. But let's not let him **ruin** our Thanksgiving. When I get out of this **stuffy** office I'm going straight to the grocery store and buying the biggest turkey I can find, along with the ingredients to make one of my homemade pumpkin pies.

**Mac:** Oh, now **my mouth is watering**. As much as I love my wife, **she can't cook to save her life**. We usually spend our Thanksgiving meal at a restaurant. In fact, I can't remember the last time I actually had some homemade pumpkin pie.

### Vocabulary

**I'm gonna pull my hair out**  
= an exaggerated way to express that you can't endure much more

**piles on the work** = gives LOTS of work

**tightwad** = someone who doesn't like to spend money (negative connotation)

**it wouldn't be the end of the world** = it wouldn't be a disaster

**squeeze out** = get something by applying pressure

**chained** = used metal chains to keep someone prisoner

**ruin** = destroy, make bad

**stuffy** = describes a place that lacks ventilation (negative connotation)

**my mouth is watering** = that sounds delicious; I want to eat it!

**she can't cook to save her life** = she has ZERO cooking ability

**Rhonda:** Well, then, why don't you load Megan and the kids into the car and come over to our house on Thanksgiving? We'd love to have you.

**Mac:** Oh, I don't know. We wouldn't want to **intrude** on your family's holiday.

**Rhonda:** Who's intruding? You guys are like family to us, Mac. Intruding? **Good grief!**

**Mac:** All right... okay... we'll come.

**Rhonda:** Great! We'll **have a ball**, you just wait and see. Roger will get the fireplace going. We'll **stuff ourselves** full of turkey and pumpkin pie, **savor** some hot chocolate and sit by the fire.

**Mac:** Ahh, that sounds really nice. Way better than sitting in a plastic **booth** listening to some **crabby** waitress complaining about working on Thanksgiving. It sure **puts a damper on** my holiday spirit.

**Rhonda:** Well, **keep in mind** that we all have to make a living, and that waitress is probably just **scraping by**. It *is* sad that some people can't be with their families on the holidays. I feel bad for those people.

**Mac:** Like Mr. Green – I don't think he has any family in the area. He'll probably spend the holiday right

## Vocabulary

**intrude** = enter without permission or without being welcome

**Good grief!** = an exclamation of surprise, shock, or amazement

**have a ball** = have fun; have a good time

**stuff ourselves** = eat excessively

**savor** = greatly appreciate the taste or smell of something

**booth** = a type of seating used in diners and restaurants

**crabby** = in a bad mood

**puts a damper on** = makes less enjoyable

**keep in mind** = remember; don't forget

**scraping by** = having difficulty surviving on a low salary

here in the office **poring over** reports and **grumbling** that his accounting department is **incompetent**.

**Rhonda:** Maybe we should invite the **old fart** to Thanksgiving at my home?

**Mac:** Uh... you might wanna **think twice about that**, Rhonda. He's so demanding, he'll probably write up a report **critiquing** your pumpkin pie and file it with your performance review.

**Rhonda:** Don't be so **uptight**, Mac. I'm sure even Mr. Green **loosens up** a bit during the holidays. Yeah... I *will* invite him, if he doesn't have any other plans.

**Mac:** ::sighs:: **The more the merrier**, I suppose. Okay - I'm just gonna **wrap up** a few things, and then head home. See you tomorrow at 6?

**Rhonda:** **You bet!**

## Vocabulary

**poring over** = read or look at something carefully

**grumbling** = complaining in a low voice

**incompetent** = not intelligent, not skilled

**old fart** = a disrespectful way to refer to an older person (very rude!)

**think twice about that** = reconsider if it is truly a good idea or not

**critiquing** = analyzing and evaluating

**uptight** = anxious, tense

**loosens up** = becomes more relaxed and friendly

**the more the merrier** = if there are more people, it will be more fun / enjoyable

**wrap up** = finish

**You bet!** = Yes, definitely!

## Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Four words are not used.

<b>crabby</b>	<b>loosen up</b>	<b>ruin</b>	<b>thinking twice</b>
<b>incompetent</b>	<b>piling on</b>	<b>savoring</b>	<b>tightwad</b>
<b>intruding</b>	<b>poring over</b>	<b>scrape by</b>	<b>uptight</b>
<b>keep in mind</b>	<b>put a damper on</b>	<b>stuffy</b>	<b>wrapping up</b>

1. All my professors have been \_\_\_\_\_ assignments lately - I'll have to stay up all night to finish everything!
2. Can we open a window? It's getting \_\_\_\_\_ in here.
3. Her parents' disapproval of the marriage \_\_\_\_\_ her excitement about her upcoming wedding.
4. He's very unpleasant to work with because he gets \_\_\_\_\_ when he doesn't get his way, and makes some nasty remarks.
5. I tried to put them out of my mind, but the worries kept \_\_\_\_\_ on my thoughts.
6. It's so rare that I get to eat lobster. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ every bite.
7. Maybe the problem was inevitable, but the way they handled it was completely \_\_\_\_\_, and it just made things worse.
8. My husband's planning a round-the-world trip, so he's been \_\_\_\_\_ airline websites and tourist guides lately.
9. She's such a \_\_\_\_\_, she refused to contribute even \$5 to the community fundraiser.
10. This lingerie is delicate so you need to wash it by hand. Putting it in the washing machine and dryer will \_\_\_\_\_ it.
11. Well, he's single and has no kids, so he can \_\_\_\_\_ on minimum wage.
12. We're almost done here - we'll be \_\_\_\_\_ this meeting in about ten minutes.

## Speaking Task

Mac doesn't seem to get along very well with his supervisor. Talk about either a particularly good or particularly bad boss you've had. Also, do you prefer managing people, or being managed, and why?

Send your MP3 to [help@espressoenglish.net](mailto:help@espressoenglish.net) for evaluation!

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## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. b
8. b

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. piling on
2. stuffy
3. put a damper on
4. crabby
5. intruding
6. savoring
7. incompetent
8. poring over
9. tightwad
10. ruin
11. scrape by
12. wrapping up