

# Father's Day

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do people celebrate Father's Day in your home country?
2. What are some qualities every father should have?
3. Describe your father or a person who was a father figure to you.



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

_____ 1. pass away	a) a social event where friends and family meet informally
_____ 2. proclamation	b) in a situation where someone feels very happy or excited
_____ 3. home improvement	c) to be thankful for
_____ 4. retailer	d) a strong connection
_____ 5. commercialized	e) to die
_____ 6. last-minute	f) a piece of paper used for savings on a product
_____ 7. coupon	g) a formal announcement or statement
_____ 8. appreciate	h) related to activities outside of school or work
_____ 9. get-together	i) simple food that makes someone feel good
_____ 10. in one's glory	j) things that make a home look or function better
_____ 11. comfort food	k) an amount that is equal to or more than someone else's amount
_____ 12. domestic	l) when there is almost no time left
_____ 13. fair share	m) a person who sells a product/products
_____ 14. extracurricular	n) related to the home
_____ 15. bond	o) related to making a profit

## Reading

1. Father's Day originated in the United States in 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, invented the holiday after learning about Mother's Day in church one Sunday. Sonora's own mother had **passed away** during childbirth. Her father had to raise six children on his own. To honour her own dad, Sonora chose a date near his birthdate to celebrate Father's Day. Each year on that day, Sonora invited people to wear red roses to honour a living father and white roses to honour a deceased father. With hard work, Sonora convinced the local government to make the holiday official. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a **proclamation** declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Sonora Smart Dodd is often referred to as "the Mother of Father's Day." Countries around the world celebrate Father's Day on one day or another each year.
2. Do you give your dad a necktie for Father's Day? This is the most common gift given on Father's Day. Other popular gifts include golf clubs, fishing rods, and **home improvement** tools. In the 1930s, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City. The council was made up of many menswear **retailers**. Council members helped promote Sonora's holiday. This is how it became so **commercialized**. Many children complain that it is more difficult to shop for their dad than their mom. This explains why many Father's Day gifts are **last-minute** purchases!
3. Not all Father's Day gifts are store-bought items. Young children often make Father's Day gifts in school. Typical handmade crafts for fathers include picture frames, drawings, and **coupon** books. What father doesn't want to receive a coupon for a free hug or foot massage? Older children often arrange activities with their dads for Father's Day. Sons or daughters take their fathers to baseball games or offer to pay for a round of golf. Fathers typically **appreciate** the gift of time more than any other gift. This special day can be difficult for those who have lost their fathers. Family **get-togethers** with lots of children around can help keep their spirits high.
4. Many children say that the way to their father's heart is through his stomach. In other words, chicken wings and beer or a bowl of homemade chili with bread may be the perfect gift for Father's Day. Most kids know their father's favourite dessert or meal. Is your father **in his glory** when you serve his favourite **comfort food** for dinner?
5. The roles of fatherhood have changed with the times. These days, many couples share the **domestic** duties equally. Many moms are busy with their own careers. Dads need to do their **fair share** around the house. Stay-at-home dads and single dads are on the rise. Besides getting involved with their children's **extracurricular** activities, these fathers take on other nurturing duties. They read bedtime stories, stay home with kids on sick days, and even change diapers. Fathers who participate equally in the early years typically have a strong **bond** with their children in the older years.

## Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write the answers in your notebook.

1. When is Father's Day celebrated in the United States?
2. Where did Father's Day originate?
3. Who is Sonora Smart Dodd?
4. Why does the reading mention President Johnson?
5. What was the main result of the National Father's Day Committee?
6. How do the shopping trends for Father's Day compare to those for Mother's Day?
7. Why does the reading mention chicken wings and homemade chili?
8. What do young children often do for their dads for Father's Day?
9. Why might it be a good idea to have lots of relatives around at some Father's Day get-togethers?
10. According to the reading, how have the roles of parenting changed?

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentences.

1. Sonora's own mother had passed away during childbirth.
  - a) moved
  - b) died
  - c) became ill
2. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.
  - a) statement
  - b) wish
  - c) holiday
3. Most fathers appreciate the gift of time more than any other gift.
  - a) need
  - b) request
  - c) value
4. These days, many couples share the domestic duties equally.
  - a) household
  - b) children's
  - c) difficult
5. What father doesn't want to receive a coupon for a free hug or foot massage?
  - a) announcement
  - b) gift receipt
  - c) paper voucher

## Vocabulary Review cont.

### B. Choose the Best Response

Choose the best response to the following statements and questions.

1. I see you're working on a home improvement project.
  - a) Yes, we've always wanted a new deck.
  - b) We can't afford that house.
  - c) Do you need a coupon?
  
2. We're going to have a meeting tomorrow morning. Bring your reports.
  - a) This is a last-minute announcement! I need time to prepare.
  - b) She'll be in her glory.
  - c) Which day are you available?
  
3. Did your dad enjoy the feast you made him for Father's Day?
  - a) I love comfort food.
  - b) He was in his glory.
  - c) We must have a get-together soon.
  
4. Aren't you going to put Casey in soccer this year?
  - a) Three goals and two assists.
  - b) Next year, he'll be on a different team.
  - c) He's in enough extracurricular activities already.
  
5. Father's Day is so commercialized these days.
  - a) True, but my dad prefers homemade gifts.
  - b) I haven't seen that commercial.
  - c) These days, he's busy golfing.

## Pair Work (Student A)

### A. Sharing Information

You and your partner each have a chart containing different information about Father's Day in different countries. Read your chart and share your information with your partner. Then complete the questions on the following page together.

#### Father's Day Around the World

Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday in June	Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on the second day in November	Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on other days	Interesting Father's Day customs in certain countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US</li> <li>• UK</li> <li>• Canada</li> <li>• South Africa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denmark</li> <li>• Norway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia <i>first Sunday in September</i></li> <li>• Brazil <i>second Sunday in August</i></li> <li>• Spain <i>March 19 (St. Joseph's Day)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Germany, Ascension Day is Father's Day. This is 40 days after Easter. Some men enjoy male-only hikes this day. Wagons for the journey are filled with beer or wine and traditional food.</li> <li>• In Taiwan, Father's Day is celebrated on the eighth day of the eighth month of the year. In Taiwanese, 8/8 ("ba ba") is pronounced in a similar way to "father."</li> <li>• Father's Day in India is relatively new. It is not a big celebration yet. It is becoming more commercialized in large cities.</li> </ul>

## Pair Work (Student B)

### A. Sharing Information

You and your partner each have a chart containing different information about Father's Day in different countries. Read your chart and share your information with your partner. Then complete the questions on the following page together.

#### Father's Day Around the World

Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday in June	Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on the second day in November	Some of the countries that celebrate Father's Day on other days	Interesting Father's Day customs in certain countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India</li> <li>Japan</li> <li>Mexico</li> <li>The Philippines</li> <li>Ireland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finland</li> <li>Sweden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taiwan <i>August 8</i></li> <li>Thailand <i>December 5</i></li> <li>Belgium <i>March 19 (St. Joseph's Day)</i></li> <li>New Zealand <i>first Sunday in September</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Thailand, the date of Father's Day depends on the birthday of the current king. Mother's Day is celebrated on the birthday of the queen.</li> <li>Some Christian countries celebrate Father's Day on St. Joseph's Day because Joseph was the father of Jesus.</li> </ul>

## Pair Work cont.

### B. Question Sheet

Work with your partner to answer the following questions.  
(You each have half of the information on your chart on one of the previous two pages.) Write your answers in your notebook.

1. When is Father's Day in Canada?
2. Which country celebrates Father's Day in December?
3. In which two countries is Father's Day celebrated on the first Sunday of September?
4. Why do some countries honour fathers on St. Joseph's Day?
5. What do you know about Father's Day in India?
6. In which country are fathers honoured on the king's birthday?
7. Why is Father's Day celebrated on August 8 in Taiwan?
8. Which region of the world celebrates Father's Day on November 2?
9. What do German fathers often do on Father's Day?
10. Name at least four other countries that honour Father's Day on the same day as Sonora Smart Dodd honoured her father.

# Vocabulary, Idioms & Expressions

## A. Reference

Idiom or Expression	Definition	Example
Who's your daddy?	an arrogant yet humorous way of saying "You should thank me for what I've done for you."	I just got us front row tickets for the hockey game. <b>Who's your daddy?</b>
a daddy's girl/boy	a child who always wants to be near his or her father (often choosing the father over the mother)	Kerry is such a <b>daddy's girl</b> these days. She won't even let her mom make her a sandwich.
father figure	a man who acts as a father to someone who needs male support (often for someone who does not have an active father in his or her life)	Halle's Uncle Tom has always been a <b>father figure</b> . He taught her how to ride a bicycle and he walked her down the aisle at her wedding.
daddy day care	a way of saying that the traditional parenting roles have been reversed in the household (the father or man is the primary caregiver, not the mother or female)	Ivan's been doing <b>daddy day care</b> this year. He took a year off from work to look after the kids.
the father of + field of study	the founder, the person who first introduced or invented a field or important idea	Galileo is often referred to as <b>the father of modern science</b> .
forefathers	the people who came before, ancestors	We have our <b>forefathers</b> to thank for peace in this country.
daddy duty	the father is in charge of the kids for a period of time	Sorry, I can't golf today. I'm on <b>daddy duty</b> .
like father, like son	expression used to say that the son is acting in a similar way to his father	Mom: James fell asleep on the couch today. Mother-in-law: <b>Like father, like son</b> .

## B. Practice

In your notebook, write your own sentences using the vocabulary and idioms from Part A.

# Listening

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2012/06/13/podcast-fathers-day/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. Father's Day originated in the United States in 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, invented the holiday after learning about Mother's Day in church one Sunday. Sonora's own mother had \_\_\_\_\_ during childbirth. Her father had to raise six children on his own. To honour her own dad, Sonora chose a date near his birthdate to celebrate Father's Day. Each year on that day, Sonora invited people to wear red roses to honour a living father and white roses to honour a \_\_\_\_\_ father. With hard work, Sonora convinced the local government to make the holiday official. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a \_\_\_\_\_ declaring the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Sonora Smart Dodd is often \_\_\_\_\_ as "the Mother of Father's Day." Countries around the world celebrate Father's Day on one day or another each year.
2. Do you give your dad a necktie for Father's Day? This is the most common gift given on Father's Day. Other popular gifts include golf clubs, fishing rods, and \_\_\_\_\_ tools. In the 1930s, a National Father's Day Committee was formed in New York City. The council was made up of many menswear \_\_\_\_\_. Council members helped promote Sonora's holiday. This is how it became so \_\_\_\_\_. Many children complain that it is more difficult to shop for their dad than their mom. This explains why many Father's Day gifts are \_\_\_\_\_ purchases!
3. Not all Father's Day gifts are store-bought items. Young children often make Father's Day gifts in school. Typical handmade crafts for fathers include picture frames, drawings, and \_\_\_\_\_ books. What father doesn't want to receive a coupon for a free hug or foot massage? Older children often arrange activities with their dads for Father's Day. Sons or daughters take their fathers to baseball games or offer to pay for a round of golf. Fathers typically \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of time more than any other gift. This special day can be difficult for those who have lost their fathers. Family \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of children around can help keep their spirits high.



## Listening cont.

4. Many children say that the way to their father's heart is through his \_\_\_\_\_ . In other words, chicken wings and beer or a bowl of homemade chili with bread may be the perfect gift for Father's Day. Most kids know their father's favourite dessert or meal. Is your father in his \_\_\_\_\_ when you serve his favourite \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner?
  
5. The roles of fatherhood have changed with the times. These days, many couples share the \_\_\_\_\_ duties equally. Many moms are busy with their own careers. Dads need to do their \_\_\_\_\_ around the house. Stay-at-home dads and single dads are on the rise. Besides getting involved with their children's \_\_\_\_\_ activities, these fathers take on other nurturing duties. They read bedtime stories, stay home with kids on sick days, and even change diapers. Fathers who participate equally in the early years typically have a strong \_\_\_\_\_ with their children in the older years.

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Students read about the history and traditions associated with Father's Day. Includes a comprehension check, a vocabulary review, and an information gap activity to do in pairs. Fun idioms are introduced.

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**LEVEL:** Int – High Int**TIME:** 2–3 hours**TAGS:** holidays, Father's Day, family, idioms, information gap

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Discuss the questions as a class. Answers will vary.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

1. e	4. m	7. f	10. b	13. k
2. g	5. o	8. c	11. i	14. h
3. j	6. l	9. a	12. n	15. d

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on pages 9–10. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

1. Father's Day is on the third Sunday of June in the US.
2. Father's Day originated in Spokane, Washington.
3. Sonora Smart Dodd is the woman who invented Father's Day in the US.
4. President Johnson proclaimed that Father's Day was official in 1966.
5. The main result of the National Father's Day Committee was that Father's Day became more of a commercial holiday.
6. Children tend to make last-minute purchases for dads because dads are typically more difficult to buy for than moms.
7. These are mentioned as "comfort foods" that dads appreciate.
8. Young children often make crafts for their fathers at school.
9. Other relatives can help people who have lost their own fathers, as Father's Day may be a difficult day for them.
10. The roles of parenting have changed. Many fathers play an equal role in parenting now that more mothers work outside of the house.

*(continued on the next page...)*

# Answer Key cont.

## Vocabulary Review

### A. CHOOSE THE CLOSEST MEANING

1. b      2. a      3. c      4. a      5. c

### B. CHOOSE THE BEST RESPONSE

1. a      2. a      3. b      4. c      5. a

## Pair Work

### B. QUESTION SHEET

1. In Canada, Father's Day is on the third Sunday in June.
2. Thailand celebrates Father's Day in December.
3. Australia and New Zealand celebrate Father's Day on the first Sunday in September.
4. Some countries celebrate Father's Day on St. Joseph's Day because Joseph was the father of Jesus.
5. Father's Day is not celebrated in a big way in India yet, as it is relatively new.
6. In Thailand, fathers are honoured on the king's birthday.
7. In Taiwan, 8/8 is pronounced "baba." This is a similar sound to the word for "father."
8. Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden) celebrates Father's Day on November 2nd.
9. German fathers often go on a male-only hike. A feast is pulled along in a wagon.
10. Four of: Canada, India, the Philippines, Ireland, Mexico, Japan, South Africa, UK.

## Listening

1. passed away, deceased, proclamation, referred to
2. home improvement, retailers, commercialized, last-minute
3. coupon, appreciate, get-togethers
4. stomach, glory, comfort food
5. domestic, fair share, extracurricular, bond