

The Fall Season Teacher's Notes

BEFORE CLASS:

⇒ **Write on whiteboard:**

Welcome to the Conversation Class!

My name is _____.

⇒ **Ask two volunteers to do the name tags**

⇒ **Ask two volunteers to put out more chairs around the room.**

1. Welcome the class. Introduce yourself. Use the whiteboard.
2. Ask the class: (and raise your hand as you ask so the students know to raise their hands.)
 - What is the symbol on the Canadian flag? (Maple leaf)
3. Show the class a Canadian flag. Ask them:
 - What is the colour of the leaf? (Red)
 - Are maple leaves always red? (No. They change colour in the fall.)
 - ** If you have another fall decoration such as a wreath of fall colours, please bring it to class.
4. Ask the class:
 - Who has seen a tree in Canada that is changing colour?
 - Where did you see that tree?
 - What colour are the leaves turning?
5. Tell the class that we will talk about the fall today. Tell the class that the questions on the handout are arranged from simple to more complex, or from easy to hard.
6. Hand out the topic.
7. Divide the class into conversation groups with a volunteer in each group. Have fun!!

The Fall Season Class Handout

1. What is another name for the season of fall? What are the four seasons in Canada? What is the official first day of fall? What is the last day of fall?
(If you want, you may look at the reverse side for answers.)
2. How many years have you lived in Canada? How many falls have you experienced in Canada? Describe the fall season to your conversation partner. Try to use five words to describe the season of fall. (Some suggestions are on the back.)
3. Does your home country have seasons? Name and describe the seasons in the country where you were born. What is your favourite season? Why is it your favourite?
4. What do you think of when you think of the fall season? What do you associate with the fall? Do you think of weather, or activities, or events? Do you think of sights, smells, or sounds? Describe these to your conversation partner. (Some examples are given in questions 5 to 10.)
5. Some people associate the season of autumn with the change of colour in the leaves. Name the colours that you see on the trees in the fall. Have you seen someone raking leaves? (See the back for a picture of a rake) Tell your conversation partner about the yard work that some people do in the fall. What is a harvest? Do city people harvest in the fall? What is 'winterizing'? (See reverse side.)
6. The weather changes in the fall. In what ways does the weather change from summer to fall? Describe how the weather here in Canada changes from summer to fall. How does this change in weather affect our lives?
7. Fall is often associated with going back to school. Stores have back-to-school sales. Have you seen advertisements for back-to-school-sales? Did you go shopping for school supplies this fall? Tell your conversation partner about shopping or preparing for school.
8. Families with students must adjust to a new schedule in the fall. What time do most children wake up on a school morning? What time did you get up in the morning when you were a child in school? What time do you think a child should go to bed on a school night? Has your schedule changed from summer to fall? How has it changed? What is the hardest part about adjusting to a new schedule?
9. Some people associate certain events with the fall season. Thanksgiving and Halloween are always in October. (We will discuss Thanksgiving and Halloween in other Conversation Classes this fall.) Events such as football games are popular in the fall. Have you ever played football? Describe the game of football. (See a picture of football on the reverse side.) Do you watch football on TV? What is a funny name for someone who watches a lot of TV? (See reverse side.) What other events usually happen in the fall?
10. There is also a time change in the fall. Daylight Saving Time begins on the first Sunday of November at 2 a.m. On Saturday evening, you should turn all your clocks and watches back one hour. For example, if you go to bed at 11:00 p.m., change your clock to 10:00 p.m. and you will get one extra hour of sleep. (In the spring, clocks are adjusted forward one hour.) What is the phrase used to help people remember how to change their clocks in the spring and fall? (see back)
11. What happy or sad memory do you have about autumn? Tell your conversation partner what you like about the fall season and what you don't like about fall. Why do you feel this way?

The Fall Season Answer Key

Question 1

The season of Fall is also called Autumn. The four seasons are spring, summer, fall and winter. The Fall season begins on September 21 and ends on December 20. Each season is 3 months long according to the calendar. However, in reality, each season is shorter or longer than three months. Do the summers here seem long or short to you?

Question 2

Some words that can be used to describe the season of Fall are:

Colourful, cool, chilly, windy, busy, change

Question 5

The leaves often turn these colours: yellow, gold, orange and red. These are called Autumn colours. When the leaves fall on grass, someone will usually rake them into a pile and then put them in the garbage. Old leaves can also be composted. City people can harvest their gardens and fruit trees in the fall. Winterizing is preparing something for the cold weather. For example, a car, a house, or a yard can be winterized. Some people store their outdoor furniture (chairs, table, BBQ) in a garage or shed.

Question 9

A person who watches a lot of TV is sometimes called a 'couch potato.' What is a couch? What is a potato?

Question 10

Some people remember how to change their clocks by saying the phrase: spring forward fall back. In the spring, you turn your clock one hour forward when you go to bed. In the fall, you will turn your clock back one hour on the Saturday evening before you go to sleep (so you will get one more hour of sleep). Therefore, 'spring forward fall back.'

