

# LABOR DAY

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/labor\\_day.html](http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/labor_day.html)

## CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Listening / Reading Gap Fill	5
Choose the Correct Word	6
Multiple Choice	7
Spelling	8
Put the Text Back Together	9
Scrambled Sentences	10
Discussion	11
Student Survey	12
Writing	13
Homework	14

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

## THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. It is celebrated on the first Monday in September. It is a time for American workers to celebrate their efforts. It is also when most Americans mark the end of the summer. The holiday started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned for "a day off for the working citizens". Working conditions were much harder back then and there were few holidays and times for rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The original Labor Day celebrations were street parades and festivals for workers and their families. This became the pattern for Labor Day celebrations. There were also speeches by important men and women.

Today, most Americans view Labor Day as a day of rest and an opportunity to look at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues in the daytime and attend fireworks displays in the evening. There are many community events, often involving sports. Families with children often use the holiday to go on a final trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting calendar. It marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches continues, although the speeches tend to be by politicians trying to get more votes in the run-up to elections. The big speeches on labor issues happen on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.

## PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

### Paragraph 1

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. It is celebrated on the first | a. to celebrate their efforts |
| 2. a time for American workers   | b. end of the summer          |
| 3. most Americans mark the       | c. and their families         |
| 4. Working conditions were much  | d. important men              |
| 5. festivals for workers         | e. Monday in September        |
| 6. speeches by                   | f. harder back then           |

### Paragraph 2

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Americans view Labor Day         | a. school starts     |
| 2. attend fireworks displays        | b. of the NFL        |
| 3. go on a final trip before        | c. in the evening    |
| 4. It marks the beginning           | d. happen on May Day |
| 5. the speeches tend to             | e. as a day of rest  |
| 6. The big speeches on labor issues | f. be by politicians |

## LISTENING GAP FILL

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. \_\_\_\_\_ the first Monday in September. It is a time for American workers to celebrate their efforts. It is also when most Americans \_\_\_\_\_ the summer. The holiday started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned for "\_\_\_\_\_ working citizens". Working conditions were much \_\_\_\_\_ there were few holidays and times for rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The original Labor Day celebrations \_\_\_\_\_ and festivals for workers and their families. This became the pattern for Labor Day celebrations. There \_\_\_\_\_ by important men and women.

Today, most Americans view Labor Day \_\_\_\_\_ and an opportunity to look at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues \_\_\_\_\_ and attend fireworks displays in the evening. There are many community events, often involving sports. Families with children often use the holiday \_\_\_\_\_ trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting calendar. It \_\_\_\_\_ of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches continues, although the speeches \_\_\_\_\_ politicians trying to get more votes in the run-up to elections. The big speeches \_\_\_\_\_ happen on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.

## WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

**Put the words into the gaps in the text.**

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. It is \_\_\_\_\_ on the first Monday in September. It is a time for American workers to celebrate their \_\_\_\_\_. It is also when most Americans mark the \_\_\_\_\_ of the summer. The holiday started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned for "a day off for the working \_\_\_\_\_". Working conditions were much harder \_\_\_\_\_ then and there were few holidays and times for rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The \_\_\_\_\_ Labor Day celebrations were street parades and festivals for workers and their families. This became the \_\_\_\_\_ for Labor Day celebrations. There were also \_\_\_\_\_ by important men and women.

*back*  
*celebrated*  
*pattern*  
*end*  
*original*  
*speeches*  
*efforts*  
*citizens*

Today, most Americans view Labor Day as a day of \_\_\_\_\_ and an opportunity to look at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues in the daytime and \_\_\_\_\_ fireworks displays in the evening. There are many community events, often involving sports. Families with children often use the holiday to go on a \_\_\_\_\_ trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting \_\_\_\_\_. It \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches continues, although the speeches \_\_\_\_\_ to be by politicians trying to get more votes in the \_\_\_\_\_ to elections. The big speeches on labor \_\_\_\_\_ happen on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.

*calendar*  
*tend*  
*rest*  
*run-up*  
*final*  
*attend*  
*issues*  
*marks*

## CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. It is *celebration / celebrated* on the first Monday in September. It is a *time / timing* for American workers to celebrate their efforts. It is also when most Americans *marking / mark* the end of the summer. The holiday started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned *for / by* "a day off for the working citizens". Working conditions were much harder *back / backed* then and there were few holidays and times for rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The *originals / original* Labor Day celebrations were street parades and festivals for workers and their families. This *becomes / became* the pattern for Labor Day celebrations. There were also *speech / speeches* by important men and women.

Today, most Americans *view / viewing* Labor Day as a day of rest and an opportunity to look at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues in the daytime and *attendance / attend* fireworks displays in the evening. There are many community events, often *involved / involving* sports. Families with children often *useful / use* the holiday to go on a final trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting calendar. It *markings / marks* the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches *continues / continuing*, although the speeches tend to be by politicians trying to get more votes in the *run-up / run down* to elections. The big speeches on labor issues *happen / happened* on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. It is celebrated (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the first Monday in September. It is a time for American workers to celebrate their efforts. It is also when most Americans (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the end of the summer. The holiday started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned (3) \_\_\_\_\_ "a day off for the working citizens". Working conditions were much harder back then and there were (4) \_\_\_\_\_ holidays and times for rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Labor Day celebrations were street parades and festivals for workers and their families. This became the pattern for Labor Day celebrations. There were also speeches (6) \_\_\_\_\_ important men and women.

Today, most Americans (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Labor Day as a day of rest and an opportunity to look at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues in the daytime and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ fireworks displays in the evening. There are many community events, often involving sports. Families with children often use the holiday to go on a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting calendar. It marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches continues, although the speeches (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to be by politicians trying to get more votes in the run-(11) \_\_\_\_\_ to elections. The big speeches on labor issues (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |              |              |                |
|-----|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) in         | (b) on       | (c) at       | (d) by         |
| 2.  | (a) marks      | (b) marking  | (c) markings | (d) mark       |
| 3.  | (a) at         | (b) to       | (c) on       | (d) for        |
| 4.  | (a) little     | (b) small    | (c) few      | (d) any        |
| 5.  | (a) original   | (b) origin   | (c) origins  | (d) originally |
| 6.  | (a) at         | (b) by       | (c) over     | (d) around     |
| 7.  | (a) sight      | (b) vision   | (c) view     | (d) look       |
| 8.  | (a) attendance | (b) attends  | (c) attend   | (d) attended   |
| 9.  | (a) final      | (b) finally  | (c) finality | (d) finalize   |
| 10. | (a) tends      | (b) tend     | (c) tended   | (d) tending    |
| 11. | (a) down       | (b) around   | (c) over     | (d) up         |
| 12. | (a) happen     | (b) happened | (c) happens  | (d) happening  |

# SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

## Paragraph 1

1. a aaoinnlt holiday
2. workers to celebrate their feortsf
3. gpaacmnied for a day off
4. working niciootsdn
5. street aapsder
6. This became the aretntp

## Paragraph 2

7. have picsinc or barbecues
8. fireworks lpsadsyi
9. community tvense
10. the sporting laaedrcn
11. The tradition of espeesch
12. labor uissse

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) the speeches tend to be by politicians trying to get more votes in the run-up
- ( **1** ) Labor Day is a national holiday in the United States. It is celebrated on the first Monday in September. It is a time
- ( ) rest. Many people worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The original Labor Day celebrations were street
- ( ) to elections. The big speeches on labor issues happen on May Day, another holiday that celebrates workers.
- ( ) parades and festivals for workers and their families. This became the pattern
- ( ) at street parades. Many families have picnics or barbecues in the daytime and attend fireworks displays in the
- ( ) evening. There are many community events, often involving sports. Families with children often use the holiday to go
- ( ) for American workers to celebrate their efforts. It is also when most Americans mark the end of the summer. The holiday
- ( ) citizens". Working conditions were much harder back then and there were few holidays and times for
- ( ) started in 1894. The Central Labor Union in New York City campaigned for "a day off for the working
- ( ) on a final trip before school starts again in September. Labor Day is an important date in the sporting
- ( ) for Labor Day celebrations. There were also speeches by important men and women.
- ( ) Today, most Americans view Labor Day as a day of rest and an opportunity to look
- ( ) calendar. It marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The tradition of speeches continues, although

## SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. is a national holiday in the . U.S. Labor Day

---

2. celebrate for to efforts time workers their A American.

---

3. end Most of Americans the mark summer the.

---

4. then back harder much were conditions Working.

---

5. speeches also were There men important by.

---

6. Most Labor a rest view as of Americans Day day.

---

7. evening Attend displays the fireworks in.

---

8. before again on trip starts Go final school a.

---

9. more trying get votes Politicians to.

---

10. on on May labor Day issues happen Speeches.

---

**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_



**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

# THE LABOR DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Labor Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Labor Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Labor Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. POSTER:** Make your own poster about Labor Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.