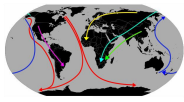


Autumn in America

EXERCISE 1 - BEFORE YOU READ What does the word “autumn” make you think of? Collect words and phrases. **Examples:** *rainy, fly a kite, make chestnut¹ figures ...*

EXERCISE 2 - COMPREHENSION Skim the six texts. Then match the pictures i-vi and the texts A-F. The words under the pictures replace the stars (★) in the respective paragraphs.



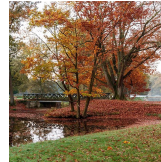
i migrating birds



ii pumpkin



iii football



iv leaves



v sunflower



vi squirrels

A In autumn, the ★ on the trees become colorful before falling to the ground. Therefore, the season is called “fall” in American English. In some areas of the USA and Canada, the trees look spectacular in autumn, so many tourists come to see them. New England and Michigan, for example, are famous for their fantastic foliage.

B Autumn is the time of harvest, and it is associated with many plants such as corn², wheat³ and apples. However, ★s are probably the most typical “autumn” plants in America and form an important part of many traditions. On Halloween, children carve faces on them to make scary decorations, and ★ pie is a traditional Thanksgiving dish.

C Winters can be cold in North America, so ★ travel south in autumn. But where exactly do they go? Some ★, such as the White-Throat Sparrow⁴, spend the winter in the south of the USA; others travel even further south to Mexico. Lastly, long-distance travelers like the broad-winged hawk⁵ fly as far as South America.

D In America, baseball is a typical summer sport, while basketball and hockey are mostly played in winter. Autumn, however, is ★ season. That might be because it started out as a college sport, and college classes begin in autumn. Besides, American ★ is a very exhausting sport which is hard to play in hot weather.

E In autumn, ★ are busy collecting lots of nuts and acorns⁶. They need all the calories they can get to survive the winter and also hide some of the food for later. While European ★ are red, American ★ have gray fur. Today gray ★ are becoming more common in Europe, too, after they were first imported in 1889. This is a problem for the native red ★, who compete with them for food.

F ★s have beautiful yellow heads and reach impressive heights. In fact, the tallest sunflower ever recorded was over nine meters tall! Originally, these plants are from America and were already cultivated by Native Americans, who made bread, medicine and dye⁷ from them. In 1552, Spanish sailors took them to Europe. Birds love their tasty seeds, but people also eat them as snacks or use ★ oil for cooking.

VOCABULARY AIDS	¹ chestnut:	² corn:	³ wheat:	⁴ sparrow:	⁵ hawk:	⁶ acorns:	⁷ dye:

EXERCISE 3 - COMPREHENSION Read again. In which text (A-F) can you find this information? One item is NOT in the text (X). Write A-F or X in the box and mark the answer to the question in the text.

Where do you find out ...

- 1) ... when school starts in the US?
- 2) ... what the American word for "autumn" is?
- 3) ... what birds like to eat?
- 4) ... what Americans do on certain holidays?
- 5) ... when a certain animal was first brought to Europe?
- 6) ... where European birds go in winter?
- 7) ... what the weather in the US is like in winter?
- 8) ... why people visit certain places in autumn?

A-F, X

EXERCISE 4 Which information from the text was new to you? Which text did you find the most interesting?

"I thought it was (not) interesting / surprising that ..."

"I already knew / didn't know that ..."

"I wouldn't have thought that ..."

EXERCISE 5 - VOCABULARY What do these words mean? All the translations can be found in a dictionary, but not all of them fit. Look at the context and then tick which German translation fits best.

1) B harvest					
	Ausbeute		Ernte		Schnitt
2) B to carve					
	schnitzen		aushöhlen		behauen
3) E native					
	angeboren		muttersprachlich		einheimisch
4) E to compete					
	konkurrieren		teilnehmen		sich messen
5) F seeds					
	Samen		Kerne		Saaten

EXERCISE 6 Grammar - Connecting sentences.

INFO Conjunctive adverbs and adverbial phrases like “therefore” and “however” connect sentences and help the reader understand a text. They are often placed at the beginning of a sentence and followed by a comma.

6a What do these words from the text mean? Connect the words with their German translations. Check the text again and guess the meaning from the context if you’re not sure.

a. therefore (A)	b. in fact (F)	c. for example (A)	d. besides (D)	e. however (B)
1. allerdings, aber	2. deshalb	3. außerdem	4. sogar, tatsächlich	5. zum Beispiel

6b Now fill in the gaps with the words from exercise 5a.

1. Personally, I rather like autumn. _____, I think it might be my favorite time of the year.
2. There are lots of great activities for children in autumn. _____, you can fly a kite, build figures from chestnuts and acorns, or carve a pumpkin.
3. I know that the weather is often cold and rainy in autumn. _____, there are also some really beautiful days - sunny, warm and perfect for a walk in the forest.
4. Of course autumn is the season of harvest. _____, we’re quite busy on our farm. However, there’s nothing better than apple pie made from hand-picked apples!
5. _____, there are some great holidays in autumn. I just love Thanksgiving - it’s always nice to get together with the whole family, and the food is delicious.

EXERCISE 7 - Writing Write a short text about a thing or tradition that you associate with autumn (for example: kites, hedgehogs, decorating for autumn, Thanksgiving, Halloween, ...). You can write from your own experience or look for information on the internet. Use sentence connectors (see exercise 5) to make your text nicer to read.

Solutions

EXERCISE 1 Beispiele: windy, cold, sunny, colorful leaves, harvest, Thanksgiving, Halloween, umbrella, potatoes, apples ...

EXERCISE 2 iC, iiB, iiiD, iV A, VF, VIE

EXERCISE 3 - Own solution

EXERCISE 4

1D ("college classes start in autumn" - NOTE: In America, universities / college are also called schools - unlike in Germany, where "Schule" and "Universität" are two different things.)

2A ("... is called fall in American English")

3F ("Birds love their tasty seeds")

4B ("On Halloween ... Thanksgiving dinner")

5E ("after they were first imported in 1889")

6X

7C ("Winters can be cold")

8A ("so many tourists come to see them").

EXERCISE 5 1 Ernte, 2 schnitzen, 3 einheimisch, 4 konkurrieren, 5 Kerne (am besten, da von Sonnenblumenkernen die Rede ist; Samen wäre auch möglich)

EXERCISE 6

6a a2, b4, (c5), d3, e1

6b 1. in fact, 2. for example, 3. however, 4. therefore, 5. besides

EXERCISE 7 - Own solution

Image sources:

ⁱ By L. Shyamal [Public domain], from Wikimedia Commons.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Migrationroutes.svg> (Image cropped)

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^{vii} <https://de.clipart.me/holiday-seasonal/easter-egg-vector-graphic-22406>