

Lesson Four

GRAMMAR

Frequency Words with the Simple Present Tense
Prepositions of Time

CONTEXT

Three Special Days

LESSON FOCUS

Frequency words, such as *always*, *usually*, *never*, tell how often we repeat an activity.

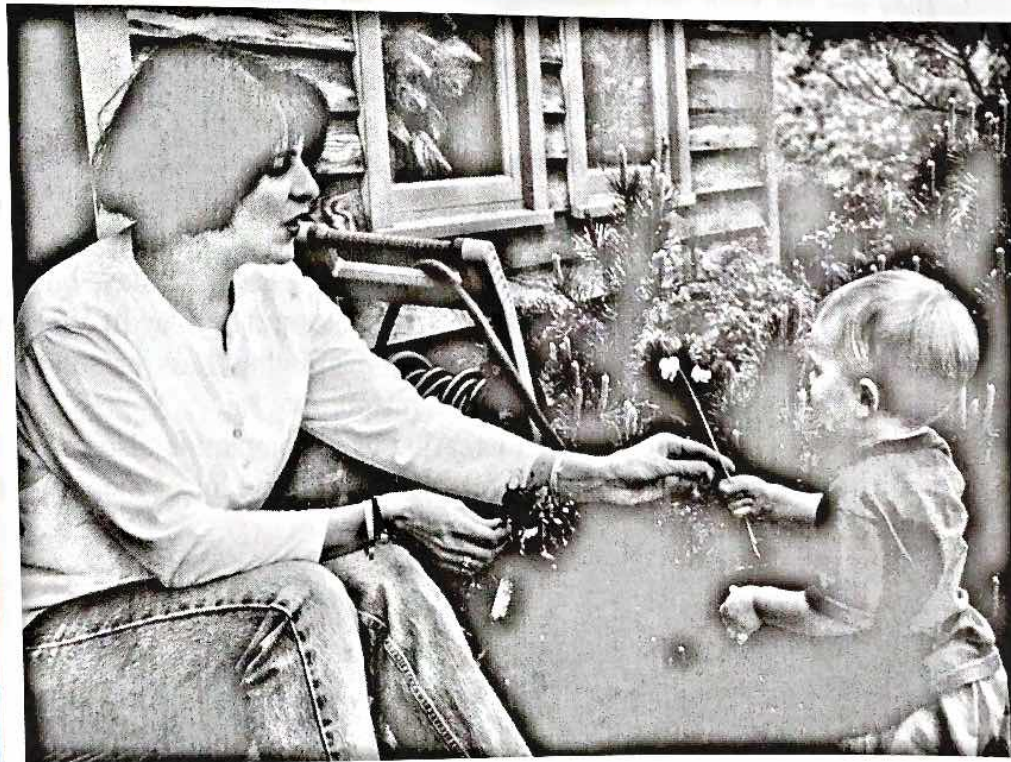
I usually drink coffee with breakfast.

I never drink coffee at night.

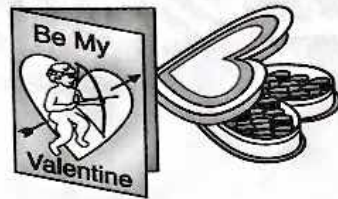
Prepositions of time, such as *in*, *on*, *at*, tell when an activity takes place.

I work *on* Saturday.

My birthday is *in* June.



- Before You Read**
1. What is your favorite holiday? When is it?
 2. Do you celebrate Mother's Day? When?
 3. Do you send cards for special occasions?



Read the following article. Pay special attention to the frequency words.



Three Special Days

Valentine's Day is a day of love. It is **always** on February 14. On this day, men **often** give flowers or candy to their wives or girlfriends. Candy manufacturers make candy or candy boxes in the shape of a heart. Sweet-hearts **often** give each other gifts. People **sometimes** send cards, called valentines, to close friends and relatives. A valentine **usually** has a red heart and a message of love. It **often** has a picture of Cupid, a symbol of romantic love. Young children **usually** have a party at school and exchange cards.

Another special day is Saint Patrick's Day. It is **always** on March 17. It is really an Irish holiday, but many Americans like St. Patrick's Day even if they are not Irish. We **sometimes** say that on St. Patrick's Day everybody is Irish. In New York City, there is **always** a parade on St. Patrick's Day. People **often** wear green clothes on this day. One symbol of St. Patrick's Day is the shamrock.

Businesses are **never** closed for Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day. People **never** take a day off from work for these days. Schools and government offices are **always** open (except if these days fall on a Sunday).

Another special day is Mother's Day. It is **always** in May, but it isn't **always** on the same date. It is **always** on the second Sunday in May. People **usually** buy presents for their mothers and grandmothers or send special cards. Families **often** have dinner in a restaurant.

People enjoy these holidays. Greeting card companies also enjoy these holidays. They **always** sell a lot of cards and make a lot of money at these times.

Did you know...?

Valentine's Day began in ancient Rome to honor Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage.

4.1

Frequency Words with the Simple Present Tense

Frequency Word	Frequency	Examples
Always	100% ↑ ↓ 0%	Mother's Day is always in May.
Usually		I usually take my mother out to dinner.
Often		People often wear green on St. Patrick's Day.
Sometimes		I sometimes watch the parade.
Rarely/Seldom		We rarely give flowers to children.
Never		Businesses are never closed for Valentine's Day.

EXERCISE 1 Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks.

EXAMPLE: Husbands often give flowers or candy to their wives on Valentine's Day.
 (never, seldom, often)

- Valentine's Day is _____ on February 14.
 (always, sometimes, never)
- People _____ send valentine cards to their sweethearts.
 (rarely, often, never)
- A valentine card _____ has a red heart and a message of love.
 (never, rarely, usually)
- Young children _____ have a Valentine's Day party at school.
 (usually, always, never)
- Saint Patrick's Day is _____ on March 17.
 (always, sometimes, never)
- A St. Patrick's Day card _____ has a red heart.
 (always, usually, never)
- In New York City, there is _____ a parade on Saint Patrick's Day.
 (always, seldom, never)
- Card companies _____ do a lot of business before holidays.
 (never, always, seldom)
- Businesses are _____ closed for St. Patrick's Day and Valentine's Day.
 (always, usually, never)

10. Mother's Day is _____ in May.
(always, usually, never)

11. Mother's Day is _____ on a Saturday in the U.S.
(always, never, sometimes)

4.2

Position of Frequency Words

Subject	Frequency Word	Verb	Complement
I	usually	buy	a card for my mother.
People	never	take	the day off for St. Patrick's Day.

Subject	Be	Frequency Word	Complement
Businesses	are	never	closed for St. Patrick's Day.
Mother's Day	is	always	in May.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. Frequency words come after the verb *be* but before other main verbs.
2. The following words can also come at the beginning of a sentence:
usually, often, sometimes.

Stores are *usually* open on Mother's Day.

Usually stores are open on Mother's Day.

A valentine *often* has a red heart.

Often a valentine has a red heart.

EXERCISE 2 Add a frequency word to each sentence to make a true statement about yourself.

EXAMPLE:

I eat fish.

I usually eat fish on Fridays.

1. I cook the meals in my house.
2. I stay home on Sundays.
3. I buy the Sunday newspaper.
4. I read the newspaper in English.
5. I use public transportation.
6. I'm tired in class.

7. I use my dictionary to check my spelling.

8. I buy greeting cards.

EXERCISE 3 Add a verb (phrase) to make a **true** statement about people from your country or cultural group.

EXAMPLE: people/often

Russian people often go to the forest on the weekends to pick mushrooms.

1. people/often

2. people/seldom

3. women/usually

4. women/rarely

5. men/usually

6. men/rarely

EXERCISE 4 Add a verb phrase to make a **true** statement about yourself.

EXAMPLE: I/never

I never go to bed after 11 o'clock.

OR

I'm never in a good mood in the morning.

1. I/never

2. I/always/in the morning

3. I/usually/on Sunday

4. I/often/on the weekend

5. I/seldom

6. I/sometimes/in class

EXERCISE 5 Use the words given below to write a sentence about your impressions of Americans. Discuss your answers in a small group or with the entire class.

1. Americans/rarely

2. Americans/often

4.3 Yes/No Questions with *Ever*

<i>Do/Does</i>	Subject	<i>Ever</i>	Main Verb	Complement	Short Answer
Do	you	ever	celebrate	Mother's Day?	Yes, I always do.
Does	your father	ever	cook	the meals?	No, he never does.
<i>Be</i>	Subject	<i>Ever</i>		Complement	Short Answer
Is	Mother's Day	ever		on a Sunday?	Yes, it always is.
Are	you	ever		bored in class?	No, I never am.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We use *ever* in a *yes/no* question when we want an answer that has a frequency word.
2. In a short answer, the frequency word comes between the subject and the verb.
3. The verb after *never* is affirmative. We do not put two negatives together.

Is Mother's Day ever on a Saturday?
No, it never *is*.

4. We can give a short *yes* or *no* answer with just the frequency word.
Do you *ever* buy your mother a present for Mother's Day?
Yes, *always*.
Is St. Patrick's Day *ever* on a Sunday?
Yes, *sometimes*.

EXERCISE 6 Add *ever* to ask these questions. Another student will answer.

- EXAMPLES:** Do you eat in a restaurant?
A. Do you ever eat in a restaurant?
B. Yes, I often do. OR Yes, often.

- Are you bored in class?
A. Are you ever bored in class?
B. No, I never am. OR No, never.

1. Do you use public transportation?
2. Do you drink coffee at night?
3. Do you drink tea in the morning?
4. Do you speak English at home?
5. Do you watch TV at night?
6. Do you rent videos?
7. Are you late to class?
8. Do you ask for directions on the street?
9. Are you homesick?
10. Are you lazy on Saturdays?
11. Does it snow in March?

EXERCISE 7 Add *ever* to these questions to ask about Americans. Another student will answer.

- EXAMPLES:** Do Americans eat fast food?
A. Do Americans ever eat fast food?
B. Yes, they sometimes do.

- Are Americans friendly to you?
A. Are Americans ever friendly to you?
B. Yes, they usually are.

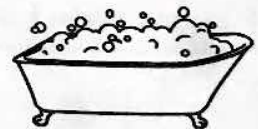
1. Do Americans eat with chopsticks?
2. Do Americans carry radios?
3. Do Americans say "Have a nice day"?
4. Do Americans kiss when they meet?
5. Do Americans shake hands when they meet?
6. Are Americans impolite to you?

7. Do Americans pronounce your name incorrectly?
8. Do Americans ask you what country you're from?
9. Are Americans curious about your country?

EXERCISE 8 Fill in the blanks with a frequency word to make a statement about yourself. Then ask a question with *ever*. Another student will answer.

EXAMPLE: I never jog in the morning.
A. Do you ever jog in the morning?
B. No, I never do.

1. I _____ ride a bike in the summer.
2. I _____ visit relatives on Sunday.
3. I _____ go to sleep before 9 p.m.
4. (Women: Do A. Men: Do B.)
A. I _____ wear high heels.
B. I _____ wear a suit and tie.
5. I _____ do exercises.
6. I _____ eat meat.
7. I _____ drink colas.
8. I _____ buy the Sunday newspaper.
9. I _____ put sugar in my coffee.
10. I _____ take a nap in the afternoon.
11. I _____ eat in a restaurant.
12. I _____ use a fax machine.
13. I _____ bake bread.
14. I _____ use cologne or perfume.
15. I _____ take a bubble bath.



bubble bath

4.4

Frequency Expressions and Questions with *How Often*

<i>How Often Do/Does</i>					Subject	Verb	Complement	Answer
How often	do	you	visit	your mother?				Once a week.
How often	does	the mail	come?					Every day.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- We ask a question with *how often* when we want to know the frequency of an activity.
- Expressions that show frequency are these:
 - every day (week, month, year)
 - every other day (week, month, year)
 - from time to time
 - once in a while
- Frequency expressions can come at the beginning of a sentence or at the end of a sentence.
 - I learn more about Americans *every day*.
 - Every day* I learn more about Americans.
 - From time to time*, I look up words in my dictionary.
 - I look up words in my dictionary *from time to time*.

EXERCISE 9 Ask a question with "How often do you . . . ?" and the words given. Another student will answer.

EXAMPLE:

get a haircut

A. How often do you get a haircut?

B. I get a haircut every other month.

- come to class
- shop for groceries
- wash your clothes
- call long distance to your country
- go out to dinner
- use public transportation
- renew your driver's license
- buy the newspaper
- go to the movies

EXERCISE 10 Linda has a list to remind her of the things she has to do on a regular basis. Write questions and answers about her activities.

- drive daughter to ballet lessons - Tu, Th
- pick up son at baseball practice - Mon, Wed
- shop for groceries - Sat
- take the dog for a haircut - 3rd day of every month
- go to the beauty salon - 5th day of every month
- visit Mom - Fri
- go to the gym - Mon, Wed, Fri morning
- prepare the kids' lunches - Mon to Fri
- change oil in car - Jan, April, July, Oct

EXAMPLE:

How often does she drive her daughter to ballet practice?

She drives her daughter to ballet practice twice a week.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

EXERCISE 11 Write a few sentences about a member of your family or another person you know. Use frequency words.

EXAMPLE: *My sister never helps with the housework.*

She always gets good grades.

She sometimes leaves dirty dishes in the sink.

EXERCISE 12 Use the words in parentheses () to complete this conversation. Put the words in the correct order. Use the correct form of the verb.

A. Let's go to a movie tonight.

B. I can't. My mother always makes dinner for me on Fridays.
(example: make/always)

If I don't visit her, she _____ . And if I don't call her, she worries.
(1 complain/usually)

A. _____ her?
(2 how/often/you/call)

B. _____
(3 I/every day/call her)

A. Why do you call her so often?

B. She's old now, and she _____ lonely.
(4 often/be)

A. Well, invite your mother to go to the movies.

B. Thanks, but she has a favorite TV show on Friday nights.

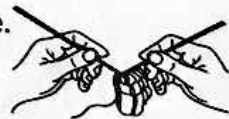
She _____ it.
(5 watch/always)

A. _____ go out?
(6 ever/she)

B. She _____ . She prefers to stay home.
(7 rarely/do)

She likes to cook, knit, and watch TV.

A. Is she a good cook?



knit

- B. Not really. She _____ the same thing every week:
 (8 usually/cook)
 chicken on Friday, fish on Saturday, meatloaf on Sunday. . . . Her
 routine _____. Only Mother's Day is different.
 (9 change/never)
- A. What _____ on Mother's Day?
 (10 you/do/usually)
- B. My sister and I _____ her flowers and take her to
 (11 usually/buy)
 a restaurant.
- A. Does she like that?
- B. Not really. She _____, "Don't waste your money.
 (12 usually/say)
 Flowers _____ in a day or two. And my cooking is
 (13 die/always)
 better than restaurant food."
- A. _____ hard to please?
 (14 be/she/always)
- B. Yes, she is.
- A. _____ satisfied?
 (15 be/she/ever)
- B. Not usually. She _____, "I don't want Mother's Day
 (16 always/say)
 once a year. I want it every day."

EXERCISE 13 Read this student's composition about his teacher. Find the mistakes with the underlined words and correct them. Add the verb *be* where necessary. If the underlined words are correct, write C.

My English teacher ^{is} Barbara Nowak. She ^{teaches} ~~teach~~ grammar and composition at City College. She very nice, but she's very strict. She give a lot of homework, and we take a lot of tests. If I pass the test, I very happy. English's hard for me.

Every day, at the beginning of the class, she takes attendance and we hand in our homework. Then she's explains the grammar. We do exercises in the book. The book have a lot of exercises. Most exercises is easy, but some are hard. Sometimes we says the answers out loud, but sometimes we write the answers. Sometimes the teacher asks a student to write the answers on the chalkboard.

The students like Barbara because she make the class interesting. She brings often songs to class, and we learn the words. Sometimes we watch a movie in class. Always I enjoy her lessons.

After class I sometimes going to her office if I want more help. She very kind and always try to help me.

Barbara dresses very informally. Sometimes she wears a skirt, but she wears usually jeans. She about 35 years old, but she's looks like a teenager. (In my country, never a teacher wear jeans.)

I very happy with my teacher. She understand the problems of a foreigner because she's also a foreigner. She's comes from Poland, but she speaks English very well. She know it's hard to learn another language.

4.5 Prepositions of Time

Preposition	Example
<i>On:</i> days and dates	When do you go to church? On Sundays. When do Americans celebrate Independence Day? On July 4.
<i>In:</i> months	When do Americans celebrate Mother's Day? In May.
<i>In:</i> years	When do Americans vote for President? In 2000, 2004, 2008, and so on.
<i>At:</i> specific time of day	What time do you eat lunch? At noon. What time does the class start? At 8 o'clock. What time do you go to bed? At midnight.
<i>In</i> the morning <i>In</i> the afternoon <i>In</i> the evening	When do you work? In the morning. When do you go to school? In the evening.
<i>At</i> night	When do you call your family? At night.

(continued)

Preposition	Example
<i>In</i> : seasons	When do we have vacation? In the summer.
<i>From . . . to</i> : a beginning and ending time	What hours do they work? From nine to five.

EXERCISE 14 Answer these questions. Use the correct preposition.

1. When do you get up in the morning?
2. What time does your English class begin?
3. What days does your English class meet?
4. When is your birthday?
5. What time do you go to bed?
6. When do Americans celebrate Labor Day?
7. When do students in your country have vacation?
8. When is Valentine's Day?
9. When is Mother's Day in the U.S.?
10. When is Mother's Day in your country?

SUMMARY OF LESSON 4

1. Frequency Words:

Most Frequent	always	100%
↑	usually	↑
↓	often	↓
Least Frequent	sometimes	0%
	rarely/seldom	
	never	

2. The Position of Frequency Words:

AFTER THE VERB *BE*: He **is** **always** late.

BEFORE A MAIN VERB: I **usually** walk to work.

3. The Position of Frequency Expressions:
Every day I watch TV.
 I watch TV **every day**.
4. Frequency Questions and Answers:
 Do you **ever** wear a suit and tie? I seldom do.
 Are you **ever** bored in class? Yes, sometimes.
How often do you go to the library? About once a month.
5. Review prepositions of time on pages 121–122. Review the simple present tense in Lessons 1 and 2.

EDITING ADVICE

1. Put the frequency word in the correct place.
am never
 I ~~never am~~ bored in class.
I always
~~Always~~ I drink coffee in the morning.
2. Don't separate the subject and the verb with a frequency phrase.
once in a while
 She ~~once in a while~~ visits her grandmother.
Every other day we
 We ~~every other day~~ write a composition.
3. Don't use a negative verb with *never*.
 Do you ever take the bus to school? No, I never ~~don't~~ ^{do}.
 We never ~~don't~~ eat in class.
4. Use *ever* in questions. Answer the question with a frequency word.
 Do you ever listen to the radio in the morning? Yes, I ~~ever~~ ^{sometimes} do.

LESSON 4 TEST / REVIEW

PART 1

Find the mistakes with the underlined words, and correct them (including mistakes with word order). Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

EXAMPLES: Do you ever drink coffee? No, I never don't ^{do}.

I never eat spaghetti. C

1. Always I give my mother a present for Mother's Day.
2. I rarely go downtown.
3. They never are on time.
4. It snows seldom in April.
5. Do you ever take the bus? Yes, I never do.
6. Are you ever late to class? Yes, always I am.
7. Do you ever use chopsticks? Yes, I ever do.
8. What often do you go to the library? I go to the library twice a month.
9. I once in a while eat in a restaurant.
10. Every other day she cooks chicken.

PART 2

This is a conversation between two students. Fill in the blanks to complete the conversation.

- A. Who ^{is} _____ your English teacher?
(example)
- B. His name _____ David.
(1)
- A. _____ David?
(2)
- B. Yes. I like him very much.
- A. _____ he wear a suit to class?
(3)
- B. No, he _____ . He always _____ jeans
(4) (5) and running shoes.
- A. _____ ?
(6)
- B. He _____ about 60 years old.
(7)
- A. _____ your language?
(8)
- B. No, he doesn't speak Spanish, but he _____ Polish and
(9) Russian. And English, of course.
- A. _____ does your class meet?
(10)
- B. It meets three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- A. My class _____ two days a week: Tuesday and Thursday.
(11)

B. Tell me about your English teacher.

A. Her name _____ Dr. Misko. She never _____
(12) (13)

jeans to class. She _____ wears a dress or suit.
(14)

She _____ my language. She only
(15)

_____ English.
(16)

B. Do you like her?

A. Yes, but she _____ a lot of homework and tests.
(17)

B. _____ does she give a test?
(18)

A. Once a week. She gives a test every Friday. I _____ like
(19) tests.

B. My teacher sometimes teaches us American songs. _____
(20)

your teacher _____ you American
(21) (22) songs?

A. No, she never _____.
(23)

B. What book _____?
(24)

A. My class uses *Grammar in Context*.

B. What _____?
(25)

A. "Context" means the words that help you understand a new word or idea.

B. How _____?
(26)

A. C-O-N-T-E-X-T.

PART 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition.

EXAMPLE: Many people go to church *on* Sundays.

1. We have classes _____ the evening.

2. Valentine's Day is _____ February.

3. Valentine's Day is _____ February 14.

4. A news program begins _____ 6 o'clock.

5. I watch TV _____ night.

6. We have vacation _____ the summer.
7. Many Americans work _____ 9 _____ 5 o'clock.
8. I drink coffee _____ the morning.
9. I study _____ the afternoon.

EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Find a partner. Interview your partner about one of his or her teachers, friends, or relatives. Ask about this person's usual activities.

EXAMPLE:

- A. What's your math teacher's name?
- B. Her name is Kathy Carlson.
- A. Does she give a lot of homework?
- B. No, she doesn't.
- A. What does she usually wear to class?
- B. She usually wears a skirt and blouse.
- A. Does she ever wear jeans to class?
- B. No, she never does.

2. In a small group or with the entire class, use frequency words to talk about the activities of a famous person (the President, a singer, an actor, etc.).

EXAMPLE:

The President of the U.S. often meets with leaders of other countries.

3. Find a partner. Talk about a special holiday that you and your family celebrate. Ask your partner questions about the date of the holiday, food, clothing, preparations, activities, and so on.

EXAMPLE:

- A. We celebrate the Lunar New Year.
- B. Do you wear special clothes?
- A. Yes, we do.
- B. What kind of clothes do you wear?

4. Look at the list of Linda's activities on page 118. Write a list to remind yourself of things you do on a regular basis. Find a partner. Compare your list to your partner's list.
5. In the left column on the next page is a list of popular customs in the U.S. Do people in your native country or cultural group have similar customs? If so, put a check (✓) in Column A. If not, put a check in Column B. Discuss your answers in a group.

American Customs	A Similar custom in my native country or cultural group	B Completely different custom in my native country or cultural group
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Americans often say, "Have a nice day." 2. When someone sneezes, Americans usually say, "God bless you." 3. Americans often ask, "How are you?" People usually reply, "I'm fine, thanks. How are you?" 4. Americans rarely visit their friends without calling first. 5. Americans are often in a hurry. They rarely have free time. 6. Americans often eat popcorn in a movie theater. 7. Americans often eat in fast-food restaurants. 8. Americans often say "OK." 9. Americans often wear shorts and sandals in the summer. 10. Americans often listen to a personal stereo. 11. When eating, Americans usually hold a fork in the right hand and a knife in the left hand. 12. Banks in the U.S. often have a time/temperature sign. 13. American restaurants usually have salt and pepper shakers on the table. 14. When a radio or TV breaks down, Americans often buy a new one. They rarely try to repair it. 15. Americans often send greeting cards to close friends and relatives for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and illnesses. 16. The Sunday newspaper often has store coupons. 17. There is a special day for sweethearts, like Valentine's Day. 		

WRITING

1. Write about one of your teachers. Describe your teacher and tell about his or her classroom behavior and activities.
2. Write about a holiday that you celebrate. Tell how you celebrate this holiday, or write about how you celebrate your birthday or another special day.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

1. Ask an American to do Exercise 5. See how your answers compare to an American's answers. Report the American's answers to the class.

2. Go to a drug store, supermarket, or card store. Is there a special holiday at this time (for example, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah)? Read the messages in a few cards. Make a card for someone you know. Write your own message.

Internet Activities



1. Find a greeting card site on the Internet. Send an electronic greeting card to someone you know.
2. Using the Internet, find the answers to these questions:
 - a. When is Father's Day in the U.S.?
 - b. What is the origin of Mother's Day?
 - c. When is Thanksgiving?