

Rotary

Club of New Orleans Riverbend



ROTARY CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS RIVERBEND

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PILOT PROGRAM

"Holidays"

Pilot Season, 2016

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et al

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ROTARY CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS RIVERBEND ESL PROGRAM"Holidays"

INTRODUCTION

1 READER #2: WRBH 88.3 FM presents English as a Second Language lessons, in partnership with the Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend. A transcript of each lesson may be found on our website, www.WRBH.org/ESL and downloaded to your computer or mobile device, and printed for you to follow along. ESL programming on WRBH is made possible in part by a grant from the Rotary Foundation. Visit www.nolarotary.org to learn more about Rotary. This episode is: "Holidays"

LESSON ONE: Martin Luther King Jr, Day

2 READER #1: Welcome to our program! Many people in the United States wish to improve their English skills. Many people who live in the United States today came here from abroad, as immigrants. Other persons were born in the United States, but may wish to improve their English. Today's lesson is about some of the many holidays celebrated in the United States.

- 1 READER #2: Martin Luther King, Jr Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around Dr. King's birthday, January 15.
- 2 READER #1: Martin Luther King Jr. worked for racial equality and civil rights in the United States of America. He was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his father and grandfather were ministers. His mother was a schoolteacher who taught him how to read before he went to school.
- 3 READER #2: When Dr. King was young he was an excellent student in school. He enjoyed reading books, singing, riding a bicycle, and playing football and baseball. Dr. King started attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, when he was only 15 years old. After he graduated from college, Dr. King married Ms. Coretta Scott. Dr. King and his new wife moved to Alabama, where he became a minister.
- 4 READER #1: Early in life, Dr. King experienced racism. Racism is a belief that race accounts for many differences in human ability, and that some races are superior to others.
- 5 READER #2: During the 1950s, in many public places, there were signs that said "Whites Only" to tell black people they

were not welcome. Dr. King decided to do take action to make the world a better and fairer place.

1 READER #1: During the 1950's, Dr. King became active in the movement for civil rights and racial equality. This movement was a group of people trying to bring out equality for people of all races. Dr. King participated in the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott with Rosa Parks and many other peaceful demonstrations that protested the unfair treatment of African-Americans. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

2 READER #2: Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King is also noted for his I have a Dream speech given in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC on August 28, 1963. The anniversary of Dr. King's 1963 I Have a Dream speech, is called "Dream Day."

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 1

Answer the following questions to see if you were able to follow along with the dialogue. The answers will be listed at the end of the transcript.

- 1 When do we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday?
- 2 When is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s actual birthday?
- 3 What was Martin Luther King, Jr's occupation?

- 4 What did Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking out against?
- 5 Who joined Martin Luther King, Jr. on a bus boycott in
Montgomery, Alabama?
- 6 What were Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks
advocating for African Americans?
- 7 Who assassinated Martin Luther King, Jr.?

LESSON TWO: Presidents' Day

- 1 READER #1: Washington's Birthday is a United States holiday on the
third Monday of February, in honor of George Washington. George Washington was the first President of the United States, who was born on February 22, 1732.
- 2 READER #1: Washington's Birthday honors the accomplishments of a
man known as "The Father of his Country". George Washington was admired for his leadership in the founding of the nation. As the first president of a new country, Washington was seen as a unifying force and set an example for future holders of the office.
- 3 READER #2: The federal holiday honoring Washington began in 1879,
but only for government offices in Washington. It was the first federal holiday to honor an American president, and the holiday was set on Washington's actual birthday, February 22.
- 4 READER #1: On January 1, 1971, the federal holiday was changed to
the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This meant that Americans were guaranteed a holiday on Monday. The new date places it between February 15 and 21. As a result, "Washington's Birthday" no longer occurs on Washington's actual birthday, February 22.
- 5 READER #2: Today, Washington's Birthday is now known as Presidents
Day, and the day is an occasion to remember all the presidents, not just George Washington.

- 1 READER #1: Several states honor presidents with holidays that do not fall on the third Monday of February. For example, in Massachusetts, the state celebrates "Washington's Birthday" on the same day as the Federal holiday. However, Massachusetts also has its own "Presidents Day" on May 29, which is John F. Kennedy's birthday. Other states use different dates to celebrate other Presidents. In California, Connecticut, Missouri, and Illinois, Abraham Lincoln's birthday is a state holiday, falling on February 12, regardless of the day of the week.

- 2 READER #2: Since 1862, there has been a tradition in the United States Senate that George Washington's Farewell Address to the American People be read on his birthday. This annual tradition continues with the reading of the address on or near Washington's Birthday.

- 3 READER #1: Today, President's Day is famous for being a day in which many businesses, such as car dealers, hold sales. Until the late 1980s, businesses closed on this day, similar to present practices on Memorial Day or Christmas Day. But since the late 1980s, more and more businesses are staying open on the holiday each year.

- 4 READER #2: Today, many colleges and universities hold regular classes and operations on Presidents' Day. Some schools used to close for a single day for both Lincoln's and Washington's birthday. However, they now often close for the entire following week to take an unofficial "mid-winter recess". For example, the New York City school district began doing so in the 1990s.

- 5 READER #1: Community celebrations often display a lengthy heritage. Washington's hometown of Alexandria, Virginia, hosts a month-long tribute. In 2007, the country celebrated Washington's 275th birthday.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 2

- 1 When is Washington's actual birthday?
- 2 What state was President John F Kennedy from?
- 3 What does the United States Senate do on Washington's Birthday?
- 4 Where is Washington's hometown?
- 5 What do some universities and colleges call their unofficial holiday?

LESSON THREE: Mardi Gras

- 1 READER #1: Mardi Gras, also called Carnival, refers to celebrations that begin after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany and end on the day before Ash Wednesday.
- 2 READER #2: Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday". The Tuesday is the last day of the carnival season that ends with Ash Wednesday. The "fat" part of the Tuesday holiday reflects the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.
- 3 READER #1: In many other countries, Mardi Gras is known as Shrove Tuesday, which is derived from the word shrive, meaning "confess".

- 1 READER #2: Popular practices on Mardi Gras include wearing masks and costumes, overturning social conventions, public dancing, and parades.
- 2 READER #1: Similar expressions to Mardi Gras appear in other European languages sharing the Christian tradition. This holiday is celebrated with the religious requirement for confession before Lent begins. In many areas, the term "Mardi Gras" no longer refers to simply the Tuesday, but the entire season of activity. In some American cities, it is now called "Mardi Gras Day".
- 3 READER #2: The festival season varies from city to city, but in New Orleans, the Mardi Gras season begins on the date of Twelfth Night - which is another name for Epiphany - and lasts until Ash Wednesday.
- 4 READER #1: In Mobile, Alabama, Mardi Gras-associated social events begin in November, followed by mystic society balls on Thanksgiving, then New Year's Eve, followed by parades and balls in January and February, celebrating up to midnight before Ash Wednesday.
- 5 READER #2: Other cities around the world famous for Mardi Gras celebrations include Rio de Janeiro; Barranquilla, Colombia; George Town, Cayman Islands; Port of Spain,

Trinidad and Tobago; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada; Mazatlán, and Sinaloa, Mexico.

READER #1: Carnival is an important celebration in Anglican and Catholic European nations. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the week before Ash Wednesday is called "shrovetide", ending on the Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras Day. It has its popular celebratory aspects, as well. Pancakes are a traditional food. Pancakes and related fried breads or pastries made with sugar, fat, and eggs are also traditionally consumed at this time in many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

READER #2: While not observed nationally throughout the United States, a number of traditionally ethnic French cities and regions in the country have notable celebrations.

READER #1: The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced to medieval Europe, passing through Rome and Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries to the French House of the Bourbons. From here, the traditional revelry of "Boeuf Gras," or fatted calf, followed France to her colonies.

READER #2: On March 2, 1699, French-Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville arrived at a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans, and named it

"Pointe du Mardi Gras" when his men realized it was the eve of the festive holiday.

READER #1: Bienville also established the city now known as Mobile, in Alabama, in 1702. In 1703, the tiny settlement of Fort Louis de la Mobile celebrated America's very first Mardi Gras.

READER #2: In 1704, Mobile established a secret society (Masque de la Mobile), similar to those that form New Orleans' current Mardi Gras krewes. It lasted until 1709.

READER #1: In 1710, the "Boeuf Gras Society" was formed and paraded from 1711 through 1861. The procession was held with a huge bull's head pushed along on wheels by 16 men. Later, Rex would parade with an actual bull, draped in white and signaling the coming Lenten meat fast. This occurred on Fat Tuesday.

READER #2: New Orleans was established in 1718 by Bienville. By the 1730s, Mardi Gras was celebrated openly in New Orleans, but not with the parades we know today.

READER #1: In the early 1740s, Louisiana's governor, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, held elegant society balls, which became the model for the New Orleans Mardi Gras balls of today.

READER #2: By the late 1830s, New Orleans held street processions of maskers with carriages and horseback riders to celebrate Mardi Gras. Dazzling gaslight torches, or "flambeaux," lit the way for the krewe's members. It also gave each event an exciting air of romance and festivity.

READER #1: In 1856, six young Mobile natives came to New Orleans to form the Mistick Krewe of Comus. This became the first modern New Orleans Mardi Gras krewe. Comus brought magic and mystery to New Orleans with dazzling floats (known as tableaux cars) and masked balls. Krewe members kept their identities a secret.

READER #2: In 1870, Mardi Gras' second Krewe, the Twelfth Night Revelers, was formed. That year was the first time that Mardi Gras "throws," such as cheap necklaces, were used.

READER #1: Newspapers began to announce Mardi Gras events in advance. The printing of "Carnival Edition" prints of the parades' fantastic float designs became popular. This was done after the parades, as themes and floats were carefully guarded before the procession.

READER #2: At first, these reproductions were small, and details could not be clearly seen. But beginning in 1886 with the Proteus' parade "Visions of Other Worlds," these

prints were produced in full color, showing the float and costume designs.

READER #1: In 1872, a group of businessmen invented a King of Carnival, Rex, to preside over the first daytime parade. To honor the visiting Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff, the businessmen introduced Romanoff's family colors of purple, green and gold as Carnival's official colors.

READER #2: Purple stands for justice; gold for power; and green for faith. In the same year, the Mardi Gras season adopted an official song, "If Ever I Cease to Love." The song was chosen in part to the Duke's fondness for the tune.

READER #1: Soon, floats began to be constructed entirely in New Orleans instead of France. The floats became more elegant, with Comus' magnificent "The Missing Links to Darwin's Origin of Species," in which exotic paper-mache' animal costumes served as the basis for Comus to mock both Darwin's theory and local officials, including the Louisiana Governor Henry Warmoth.

READER #2: In 1875, Governor Warmoth signed the "Mardi Gras Act," which made Fat Tuesday a legal holiday in Louisiana, which it still is today.

READER #1: Other cities along the Gulf Coast with early French colonial heritage, from Pensacola, Florida; Galveston, Texas; to Lake Charles and Lafayette, Louisiana; and north to Natchez, Mississippi, have active Mardi Gras celebrations.

READER #2: In the rural Acadiana area, many Cajuns celebrate with the Courir de Mardi Gras, a tradition that dates to medieval celebrations in France.

READER #1: Like Comus and the Twelfth Night Revelers, most Mardi Gras krewes today developed from private social clubs with restrictive membership policies. Since all of these parade organizations are funded by their members, New Orleanians call it the "Greatest Free Show on Earth!"

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 3

Answer the following questions to see if you were able to follow along with the dialogue. The answers will be listed at the end of the transcript.

1 When is Mardi Gras?

2 What religion is Mardi Gras associated with?

3 When does Mardi Gras end?

4 Where was the first Mardi Gras celebrated in the United States?

5 What are the colors are Mardi Gras?

LESSON FOUR: St Patrick's Day

1 READER #2: In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is an important religious holiday celebrating the conversion of the Irish to Christianity. Saint Patrick was born in Britain at the end of the 4th century. When he was 16, he was sold as a slave in Ireland. He escaped and spent 12 years at a monastery in France. Later, he returned to Ireland to teach people about Christianity. He became Bishop of Ireland in 431 and died on March 17th, 461.

2 READER #1 On St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, most businesses close, except for some restaurants and pubs. People attend church services honoring St. Patrick and learn about his life. Many people enjoy a traditional meal that includes boiled potatoes and cabbage mashed together with butter.

3 READER #2 The harp is the oldest official symbol of Ireland. However, the shamrock, a symbol of good luck, is perhaps the most famous. When Saint Patrick first came to

Ireland, he used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Christian Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Ireland is also known as the Emerald Isle and it is said that the Irish countryside contains forty shades of green.

1 READER #1 Until recently, Ireland held few parades on St. Patrick's Day. However, in 1995 the government of Ireland established the St. Patrick's Day Festival with the goal of creating a national festival. The four-day festival, launched in 1996 and held annually in Dublin, features a major parade on St. Patrick's Day as well as music and dance performances, food, crafts, and fireworks.

4 READER #2 Celebrating St. Patrick's Day has been a tradition in the United States since 1737. The Charitable Irish Society of Boston organized the first St. Patrick's Day parade. Therefore, the first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States.

1 READER #1 New York City's parade began in 1762. St. Patrick's Day was even acknowledged by General George Washington during the American Revolution. In 1780, during the Continental Army's bitter winter in New Jersey,

Washington permitted his troops, many of whom were of Irish descent, a holiday on March 17.

2 READER #2 Today, more than 100 U.S. cities hold St. Patrick's Day parades. The parade up Fifth Avenue in New York City is one of the largest and most famous. The parade traditionally stops at St. Patrick's Cathedral for a blessing of the marchers by the cardinal of New York.

3 READER #1 New Orleans is one of the many U.S. cities to hold St Patrick's Day parades. In and the city during the month of March there are several notable parades. These include the Irish Channel Parade, St Patrick's Day Parade on Metairie Rd, Downtown Irish Club Parade, Louisiana Irish-Italian Parade, and St Bernard Irish-Italian Islenos Parade.

READER #2: Popular St. Patrick's Day customs in the United States include drinking beer that has been colored green, eating corned beef and cabbage, wearing shamrock pins and green clothing, and generally celebrating all things Irish. In Chicago, the Chicago River is dyed green, a tradition started in 1962.

READER #1: School children have started a little tradition of their own on St. Patrick's Day. They pinch classmates who don't wear green on this holiday. Wearing green is

strictly a U.S. custom, as the color green is not as popular in Ireland. Green is connected to the old green flag and a time when Ireland was not a free country.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 4

Answer the following questions to see if you were able to follow along with the dialogue. The answers will be listed at the end of the transcript.

- 1 American children wear what color on St. Patrick's Day?
- 2 What has 3 leaves and represents St Patrick?
- 3 What is the oldest official symbol of Ireland?
- 4 St. Patrick's Day is in what month?
- 5 The country of Ireland is located where?

LESSON FIVE: Memorial Day

READER #2: Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The day is observed every year on the last Monday of May.

READER #1: Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

READER #2: The holiday originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868. The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.

READER #1: The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War. In

1863, the cemetery dedication at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was a ceremony of commemoration at the graves of dead soldiers.

READER #2: Following President Abraham Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, there were a variety of events of commemoration. The large number of soldiers of both sides who died in the Civil War, more than 600,000, meant that burial effected nearly everyone in the country. Under the leadership of women during the war, a formal practice of decorating graves had taken shape. In 1865, the federal government began creating national military cemeteries for the Union war dead.

READER #1: The first widely publicized observance of a Memorial Day-type observance after the Civil War was in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 1, 1865. During the war, Union soldiers who were prisoners of war had been held at the Hampton Park Race Course in Charleston. At least 257 Union prisoners died there and were hastily buried in unmarked graves.

READER #2: Together with teachers and missionaries, black residents of Charleston organized a May Day ceremony in 1865. The freedmen cleaned up and landscaped the burial ground, building an enclosure and an arch labeled "Martyrs of

the Race Course". Nearly 10,000 people, mostly freedmen, gathered on May 1 to commemorate the war dead. Most brought flowers to lay on the burial field.

READER #2: The ceremonies and Memorial Day address at Gettysburg National Park became famous starting in 1868. In July 1913, veterans of the United States and Confederate armies gathered in Gettysburg to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Civil War's bloodiest and most famous battle.

READER #1: Memorial Day speeches became an occasion for veterans, politicians, and ministers to commemorate the War. They provided a way for people to make sense of their history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation. People of all religious beliefs joined together and the point was often made that immigrant soldiers had become true Americans on the battlefield.

READER #2: By the 20th century, the competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions had merged. Memorial Day began to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

READER #1: On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a

specified Monday. The purpose was to create three-day weekends for Americans. This change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971.

READER #1: On Memorial Day, many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, asking people to stop and remember at 3:00 P.M.

READER #1: The National Memorial Day Concert takes place on the west lawn of the United States Capitol. The concert is broadcast on PBS and NPR. Music is performed, and respect is paid to the men and women who gave their lives for their country.

READER #2: One of the longest-standing traditions is the running of the Indianapolis 500, an auto race which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911. It runs on the Sunday preceding the Memorial Day holiday. NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 has been held later the same day since 1961. The Memorial Tournament golf event has been held on or close to the Memorial Day weekend since 1976.

READER #2: Memorial Day endures as a holiday which most businesses observe because it marks the unofficial beginning of summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end. The day marks the opening of many recreational pools, and lakes.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 5

Answer the following questions to see if you were able to follow along with the dialogue. The answers will be listed at the end of the transcript.

- 1 When is Memorial Day celebrated?
- 2 What was the original name for Memorial Day?
- 3 How long is the flag flown at half-staff position on Memorial Day?
- 4 What are some of the modern day Memorial Day celebrations?

LESSON SIX: Thanksgiving

- 1 READER #1 Thanksgiving Day is a legal holiday observed annually in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. In Canada, Thanksgiving falls on the second Monday in October. Its origin probably traces to harvest festivals that have been traditional in many parts of the world since ancient times.

2 READER #2 Today Thanksgiving is mainly a celebration of domestic life, centered on the home and family. Most people celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering with family or friends for a holiday feast.

3 READER #1 Public observances of Thanksgiving usually emphasize the holiday's connection with the Pilgrims. They were ordinary English men and women who left England for religious freedom. Against great odds, the Pilgrims made a voyage aboard the ship the Mayflower and founded Plymouth Colony in America in 1620.

5. READER #1: Many of the images commonly associated with Thanksgiving are derived from much older traditions of celebrating the autumn harvest. For example, the cornucopia (a horn-shaped basket overflowing with fruits and vegetables) is a typical emblem of Thanksgiving abundance that dates to ancient harvest festivals.

 READER #2: In keeping with the idea of celebrating a plentiful harvest, preparing and eating a large meal is a central part of most Thanksgiving celebrations. Thanksgiving menus usually include turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, squash, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie.

READER #1: Most of these foods are native to North America, emphasizing the natural bounty that greeted early settlers in their adopted homeland.

READER #2: Later groups of immigrants to North America often adapted the traditional holiday menu to fit their own tastes. For example, many Italian American Thanksgiving meals include Italian specialties, such as pasta and wine.

READER #1: In New Orleans, we have also adapted the traditional Thanksgiving meal to include our own traditions. Many of our dishes feature locally harvested food items like mirlitons, oysters, shrimp, crawfish, or andouille sausage. Some families enjoy frying their turkeys instead of baking them, or even stuffing them with spices or other meats.

READER #2: Americans trace their traditional Thanksgiving holiday to the one celebrated in 1621. This celebration was held at the Plymouth Colony, which is now known as Plymouth, Massachusetts. The English Pilgrims who had sailed from England on the Mayflower and founded the colony marked the occasion by feasting with Native American guests – members of the Wampanoag tribe – who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill.

READER #1: In the late 19th century Thanksgiving's emphasis on home and family appealed to many people throughout the United States. As a distinctly American holiday, Thanksgiving was also considered an introduction to American values for the millions of immigrants then entering the country.

READER #2: During the 20th century, as the population of the United States became increasingly urban, new Thanksgiving traditions emerged that catered to city dwellers. The day after Thanksgiving gradually became known as the first day of the Christmas shopping season. We refer to this day as Black Friday.

READER #1: To attract customers, large retailers such as Macy's in New York City began to sponsor lavish parades. By 1934, the Macy's parade, featuring richly decorated floats and gigantic balloons, attracted more than one million spectators annually. The Macy's Day Parade is held annually on Thanksgiving morning.

READER #2: Many Americans digest their holiday meal while watching football games on television. Traditionally, two National Football League (NFL) teams, the Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys, host games on Thanksgiving Day.

High viewership of these holiday games has made football an American Thanksgiving tradition.

Listening Comprehension Questions #6

Answer the following questions to see if you were able to follow along with the dialogue. The answers will be listed at the end of the transcript.

- 1 When is Thanksgiving celebrated?
- 2 What was the ship the pilgrims sailed in on?
- 3 Where was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?
- 4 What are some traditional Thanksgiving food?
- 5 What is the day after Thanksgiving called?
- 6 Which two NFL teams always play on Thanksgiving Day?

CONCLUSION

- 1 READER #2 We hope you have enjoyed today's program in WRBH's new English as a Second Language series. This program is designed to provide listening exercises for those wishing to improve their English language skills and literacy.
- 2 READER #1 Podcasts of this program may be found at Soundcloud.com, the Apple store, and via our website, www.WRBH.org. WRBH's English as a Second Language Resources are located on its website under the Resources tab by

clicking on ESL. On our website you can download transcripts of each program to follow along with the text and practice your speaking along with your readers.

3 READER #2 We welcome listener feedback so that we may continue to improve upon our English as a Second Language programming. Please send your comments to LISTEN@WRBH.ORG or nolarotary@gmail.com.

4 READER #1: Join us next week for another program in WRBH's English as a Second Language series. This program is made possible by WRBH 88.3 FM and the Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend, with the support of a grant from the Rotary Foundation. For more information, please visit www.wrbh.org or www.nolarotary.org.

5 READER #2 Today's program has been a production of WRBH. Today's volunteer readers were:

6 READER #1: _____

7 READER #2: _____

8 READER #1 Goodbye!

THE END.

ANSWERS TO LISTENING EXERCISES

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 1

- 1 When do we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday?
 On the third Monday of January
- 2 When is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s actual birthday?
 January 15
- 3 What was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s occupation?
 Minister
- 4 What did Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking out against?
 Racism
- 5 Who joined Martin Luther King, Jr. on a bus boycott in
 Montgomery, Alabama?
 Rosa Parks
- 6 What were Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks
 advocating for African Americans?
 Race Equality and Civil Rights
- 7 Who assassinated Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 James Earl Ray

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 2

- 1 When is Washington's actual birthday?
February 22
- 2 What state was President John F Kennedy from?
Massachusetts
- 3 What does the United States Senate do on Washington's
Birthday?
Reads George Washington's Farewell Address
- 4 Where is Washington's hometown?
Alexandria, VA
- 5 What medal is awarded to soldiers injured in battle?
Purple heart

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 3

- 1 What religion is Mardi Gras associated with?

Catholicism
- 2 When does Mardi Gras end?

Midnight on Fat Tuesday or Ash Wednesday
- 3 Where was the first Mardi Gras celebrated in the United
States?

Mobile, Alabama
- 4 What are the colors are Mardi Gras?

Purple, Green, and Gold

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 4

- 1 American children wear what color on St. Patrick's Day?
Green
- 2 What has 3 leaves and represents St Patrick?
Shamrock
- 3 What is the oldest official symbol of Ireland?
Harp
- 4 St. Patrick's Day is in what month?
March
- 5 The country of Ireland is located where?
Europe

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 5

- 1 When is Memorial Day celebrated?
Last Monday in May
- 2 What was the original name for Memorial Day?
Decoration Day
- 3 How long is the flag flown at half-staff position on Memorial Day?
Until 12pm
- 4 What are some of the modern day Memorial Day celebrations?
Concert, Nascar, Parades

LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 6

1 When is Thanksgiving celebrated?

Third Thursday of November

2 What was the ship the pilgrims sailed in on?

Mayflower

3 Where was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?

Plymouth, Massachusetts

4 What are some traditional Thanksgiving food?

Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie

5 What is the day after Thanksgiving called?

Black Friday

6 Which two NFL teams always play on Thanksgiving Day?

Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys