EPISODE 397

The Thanksgiving Turkey Disaster!

A Funny Thanksgiving Mini-Story

Full transcript · speaking practice · vocabulary review

Hi, everybody! I'm Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com.

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By the way, I also teach private **English conversation classes**. **Would you like to practice speaking English with me**? Visit **SpeakEnglishPodcast.com** to learn more.

Thanksgiving is coming! In the United States, families and friends often get together on Thanksgiving to share a big meal and say what they are thankful for.

And of course, there's usually turkey, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. That sounds good, doesn't it?

But a big family dinner doesn't always go as planned. Sometimes the food is late. Sometimes the guests arrive early. And sometimes... someone buys the wrong turkey.

Today, I have a funny Thanksgiving Mini-Story for you. You'll meet Linda, her husband Bob, and Grandma Rose. One of them wants a perfect dinner. One of them loves online shopping. And one of them is smart enough to have a backup plan. Ha ha!

You'll hear short questions. Try to answer them out loud before I give you the answer. Short answers are fine. The important thing is to speak.

Ready? Let's get started!

Mini-Story

Thanksgiving Dinner Disaster — Questions and Answers

Now, let's practice with a Mini-Story. Listen, answer out loud, and then hear my answer. Ready?

Linda loved Thanksgiving. Every year, she prepared dinner for her family. This year, eight people were coming, and she wanted everything to be perfect.

Three days before Thanksgiving, she gave her husband, Bob, one job: buy a big turkey. About eighteen pounds.

"Don't forget the turkey," Linda said.

"Relax, honey," Bob answered. "I've got everything under control!"

Did Linda hate Thanksgiving?

No, no. She loved Thanksgiving.

Was she cooking for two people or eight people?

Eight people. Eight people were coming for dinner.

Who had to buy the turkey?

Bob. Linda asked Bob to buy the turkey.

Was Bob worried?

Not at all! He said he had everything under control.

Bob didn't like the supermarket. It was crowded, and he never knew which turkey to choose.

So he opened his laptop and searched for "giant Thanksgiving turkey."

He found one for only $29.99. "What a deal!" he said.

The picture was small. Bob didn't read the full description. He simply clicked BUY NOW.

"Easy!" he said. "That took thirty seconds!"

Did Bob go to the supermarket?

No. He decided to shop online.

What did he search for?

A giant Thanksgiving turkey.

How much did it cost?

Only $29.99.

Did he read the full description?

No, he didn't. He saw the price and clicked BUY NOW.

Did he think he had made a mistake?

No! He thought he had found a great deal.

On Thanksgiving morning, Linda was making mashed potatoes when the doorbell rang.

Outside was a huge cardboard box. It was almost as tall as Bob.

"Your turkey is here!" Bob shouted.

Linda looked at the box. "Bob... why does a turkey need such a big box?"

"Maybe it's a very happy turkey," Bob said.

He carried the box into the living room and opened it.

When did the box arrive?

On Thanksgiving morning.

Was the box tiny?

No! It was huge, almost as tall as Bob.

Where did Bob open the box?

In the living room.

Did Linda think the box looked normal?

No. She wanted to know why it was so big.

Inside the box, Bob found a big piece of orange and brown plastic... and a small electric fan.

He also found a card. It said, "Connect the fan. Your turkey will be ready in five minutes."

"Five minutes?" Bob said. "Wow! That's faster than our oven!"

He connected the fan, pressed the button, and waited.

WHOOSH! The plastic started to grow. Bigger... and bigger... and BIGGER!

In a few seconds, an enormous inflatable turkey filled the living room. Its head touched the ceiling. Its wings covered the sofa. And its big feet blocked the front door.

Was there a real turkey inside the box?

No! There was plastic and an electric fan.

What did the card say?

Connect the fan, and the turkey would be ready in five minutes.

Did Bob put the turkey in the oven?

No! He connected the fan.

What happened next?

The plastic grew into a giant inflatable turkey.

Where was the turkey?

In the living room, taking up almost all the space!

Linda came in from the kitchen. "BOB! WHAT IS THAT?"

Bob looked up at the enormous plastic bird. "Well... technically, it's a turkey."

"A PLASTIC turkey!" Linda cried. "We can't eat that!"

Bob tried to smile. "Look on the bright side. At least it won't be dry."

Linda took a deep breath. "Our guests will be here in one hour. What are we going to eat?"

Then the doorbell rang. The first guests were already outside! But they couldn't open the door. The turkey's giant feet were in the way.

Bob shouted, "Just a minute! We have a small turkey problem!"

Was Linda happy to see the plastic turkey?
No! She was very upset.

Could they eat the inflatable turkey?
Of course not! It was made of plastic.

What did Bob say about the turkey being dry?
He said it wouldn't be dry. Ha ha!

How long did they have before dinner?
About an hour. And the guests were already arriving!

Why couldn't the guests open the door?
Because the inflatable turkey was blocking it.

Bob turned off the fan. The giant turkey slowly became smaller. He moved it out of the way and let the guests inside.

"I have another idea," Bob said. "Let's order pizza!"

"Pizza? For Thanksgiving?" Linda asked.

"Sure! We can call it Italian Thanksgiving!"

Bob called the pizza restaurant. It was closed for the holiday.

He looked at Linda. "Well... we still have some Halloween candy."

"Bob!" Linda said.

"Right," he answered. "No candy for dinner."

Did Bob want to cook another turkey?
No. He wanted to order pizza.

What did he call his pizza idea?
Italian Thanksgiving!

Was the pizza restaurant open?
No, it was closed.

What food did Bob suggest next?
Halloween candy!

Did Linda agree to serve candy for dinner?
No, no. Definitely not!

Just then, someone knocked on the door. It was Grandma Rose, carrying a large covered dish.

She stepped inside and saw the plastic turkey on the floor.

"Well, well," she said. "I see Bob has been shopping again."

Linda almost cried. "Grandma, we don't have a real turkey!"

Grandma smiled. "Oh, yes, we do."

She lifted the cover. Inside was a beautiful roasted turkey, golden brown and ready to eat.

"Grandma!" Linda said. "You saved the day! When did you make that?"

"I didn't," Grandma said. "I ordered it from the store three days ago."

Linda looked at Grandma. "But how did you know we would need a turkey?"

Grandma smiled. "I know Bob. Last year, I asked him to buy dinner rolls."

"And?" Linda asked.

"He came home with twelve rolls of toilet paper!"

Linda started laughing. Even Bob laughed.

"In my defense," Bob said, "they were very soft rolls!"

"That's why," Grandma said, "I always have a backup plan."

Vocabulary Review

12 useful words and expressions

Review these expressions before listening again.

01 thankful happy about the good things in your life.	**07 on the bright side** look at something good in a bad situation.
02 under control being managed without problems.	**08 closed for the holiday** not open because of a special day.
03 what a deal! something is available at a very good price.	**09 saved the day** fixed a serious problem at the right time.
04 cardboard box a box made from thick, strong paper.	**10 dinner rolls** small pieces of bread served with a meal.
05 inflatable something that becomes bigger when filled with air.	**11 backup plan** another plan to use if the first one fails.
06 dry food that does not have enough moisture.	

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