

## Favorite Family Holidays

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Families observe and celebrate a range of holidays for religious, secular, historical, familial, or even whimsical reasons. In this workshop, each of us will write about a favorite family holiday—how and why we observe and celebrate it.

### Some Quotations about Holidays

“Any day that is designated to shower the person you love with love is my favorite holiday.” -- Kevin Nealon, comedian

“My favorite part of any holiday is spending time with my wonderful family and friends.” – Kathy Hilton, actor and designer

“A holiday is an opportunity to journey within. It is also a chance to chill, to relax. It is when I switch on my rest mode. –Prabhas, Indian actor

“*A Christmas Story* has become such a special part of the holiday season for so many families.” – Peter Billingsley, actor

“Black Friday is not another bad hair day in Wall Street. It's the term used by American retailers to describe the day after the Thanksgiving holiday, seen as the semi-official start of Christmas shopping season.” –Evan Davis, economist

“Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.” –Dave Barrym, American journalist

“Since I'm always working, my best holiday memories are definitely when I can just go home and spend time with my family.” –Chris Brown, singer

“I always joke that my kids' favorite holiday is Father's Day. They love the way I celebrate the occasion by writing each of them a thank-you letter and a generous check. It's my way of letting them know how much I appreciate the great pleasure and privilege of being their dad.” –Wayne Dyer, psychologist

### Questions for Conservation and Writing

1. What holidays did your family celebrate when you were a child—religious, secular, historical, familial, whimsical?
2. Why did your family celebrate those holidays?
3. What do you remember most about those holidays?
4. Which family members come to mind when you think of particular holidays?
5. Which family member most enthusiastically celebrated holidays?

6. Which family member most enthusiastically hosted holiday celebrations?
7. What foods do you associate with any holidays?
8. Do you associate any clothing with any holidays—e.g., wearing a green shirt on March 15?
9. How did your family celebrate birthdays when you were a child?
10. Some families treat birthdays like holidays—e.g., people take the day off from work. If that is the case in your family, what makes it a holiday?
11. What do you remember most about how your family celebrated your birthdays?
12. What are some holidays that your family no longer celebrates?
13. Why does your family no longer celebrate them?
14. What are some holidays that you now celebrate that you did not celebrate when you were a child?
15. What motivated you to start celebrating them?
16. In general, why do you think that it is important to celebrate holidays?
17. Since the pandemic of 2020, have you changed the ways in which you celebrate holidays?
18. How did it feel to celebrate a holiday during the pandemic?
19. What holiday would you like to celebrate that you have never celebrated?