



Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Activity Plan - Intermediate Level



Canadian Holidays - Valentine's Day  
90 minutes

**Objective/Goal:**

This activity requires the participants to work together to learn about Canadian traditions such as celebrating Valentine's Day. Culture sharing is a great way to get the group talking. Participants are encouraged to share their personal opinions on Valentine's Day.

**Materials:**

**Participants need:** a set of Valentine's Day pictures and a set of vocabulary cards.

**Preparation needed:** Cut out the cards and pictures for each pair of participants.

**Facilitator needs:**

White board / white board marker, a set of Valentine's Day pictures, and a set of vocabulary cards (**see the foot note about Valentine's Day**)

**Procedure:** Warm-up 15 min  
Work-out 60 min  
Cool-down 15 min

To start with this, ask the whole group:

***"When is Valentine's Day?"***

***"Do you celebrate Valentine's Day in your country?"***

***"What do people do in your country?"***

After listening to their answers, ask the participants to share their personal opinions on Valentine's Day. The key frame sentences are:

***"What do people in Canada do on Valentine's Day?"***

***"What do you think of Valentine's Day? Should we celebrate it or not?"***

***"In my opinion, people should celebrate Valentine's Day differently."***

***"To my mind, it is a waste of money to give flowers, cards and chocolates to their loved ones."***

**1. Warm-up Activity:** Introduce Valentine's Day and pre-teach the following words and phrases. Define and explain unfamiliar words.

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. celebrate friendship           | 2. share love (with family members) |
| 3. write and send Valentine cards | 4. give chocolates / flowers        |
| 5. in my opinion                  | 6. to my mind                       |
| 7. pros and cons                  | 8. debate                           |

**Whole class Practice Drill:** Have participants repeat the phrases and the sentences with you a few times. And then ask them **“Is February 14 a special day in your life?” “Why or Why not?”** Wait for their answer. If they answer “Yes, it is.” ask them to share how they mark the day. Then ask the group:

**Ask: What do people do on Valentine's Day?**

**Answer: 1. People give chocolates, flowers, and gifts.**

**Answer: 2. People celebrate friendship and love.**

**Ask: What do you think of Valentine's Day?**

**Answer: 1. To my mind, it is a very special day for married couples. They can celebrate their love and their marriage to build up their relationship.**

**Answer 2. I really don't think it is necessary to celebrate Valentine's Day. The business people take advantages of the people by raising the prices of merchandise.**

Ask the participants to read the sentences aloud with you if there is a need for improving their pronunciation.

## **2. Workout activity:**

### **Activity 1 – Group Debate**

Divide the whole group into two big groups: Group A and Group B. Group A is going to list some of the reasons why they think there is a need to celebrate Valentine's Day – the pros. Group B is going to list the reasons why we should not celebrate Valentine's Day - the cons. Give the groups time to discuss and have them write down their major points on the white board for reference.

**Activity 2: Pair work** - Pair up participants and give each pair a set of picture cards/sentences. Have each pair get a picture or word card from the pile and share his/her opinion on each card such as “people give flowers”. Partner A asks Partner B: **“What do you think of people giving gifts to their loved ones on Valentine's Day?”** Partner B: **“To my mind, it is waste of money. I can give my loved ones something useful and practical. How about you?”**

**3. Cool down** – Randomly select a few pairs to share their opinions on Valentine's Day with the whole group. Encourage the participants to compare with their partner what they did in their home country if they celebrate Valentine's Day.

**“What do you think people should do on Valentine’s Day?”**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Do you Celebrate Valentine’s Day on February 14? Why? Why not?</b></p>  | <p><b>Do you think children should celebrate Valentine’s Day with their classmates?</b></p>         | <p><b>What do you write on Valentine’s Day cards?</b></p>                      |
| <p><b>Is it necessary to give Valentine cards? Why? Or Why not?</b></p>       | <p><b>What would you give to the people you love on Valentine’s Day?</b></p>                        | <p><b>Who would you share a special meal with on Valentine’s Day? Why?</b></p> |
| <p><b>Do you give chocolates to the people you love? Why? Or Why not?</b></p> | <p><b>Do you think Give flowers to the people they love is the only way to show their love?</b></p> | <p><b>What would you do to mark this special day?</b></p>                      |

**Note to the facilitators:**

Valentine's Day is on February 14th. It is a special day to celebrate love and friendship. On Valentine's Day, Canadian people give cards, candy, and flowers to the ones they love. School children make and sign Valentine's Day cards at home and bring them to school for their classmates. At school, some teachers show their students how to make Valentine's Day cards for their parents. Adults listen to romantic music, write love letters to each other, and eat out at restaurants. The popular colors are red and pink, and the popular symbols are red hearts, red roses, teddy bears, bows and arrows, and Cupid. Cupid is a mythical figure. He is a winged **god of love** and the son of Venus. (Source: [www.busyteacher.com](http://www.busyteacher.com) )