

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Class / Level: ESL B2

Friends Thanksgiving Clip: Scene Summary & Vocabulary

Mastering CEFR B2 Conversational Expressions, Idioms, and Phrasal Verbs



Part 1: Scene Summary Reading Context

Instructions: Read the summary of the Thanksgiving scene below. Pay close attention to the **bolded expressions** and how they are used in context.

As Thanksgiving approaches, the group of friends finds themselves facing various holiday dilemmas. The situation begins when Ross's sister, Monica, has to **break the news** that their parents are traveling to Puerto Rico for the holiday, leaving the siblings without their traditional family dinner. Hoping to keep the holiday spirit alive, Monica decides to **offer to host** Thanksgiving at her apartment and promises to prepare a feast just like their mother used to make. Ross eagerly accepts and asks her to make mashed potatoes with lumps, to which Monica cheerfully replies that she will **work on** getting the lumps just right.

Meanwhile, each of the other friends brings their own unique twist to the holiday. Chandler refuses to participate because he chooses to **boycott** all pilgrim-related holidays due to childhood memories. Phoebe is celebrating in December according to her grandmother's boyfriend's lunar calendar. Joey proudly reveals that he has officially landed a new gig as an actor and model. However, when the group discovers that he is modeling for a public health awareness poster at a local free clinic, they tease him and jokingly call his new look a **cry for help**. Finally, Rachel is desperately trying to raise enough money to go on a ski trip to Vail with her family. She decides to ask her boss if he can **give an advance on** her waitressing tips, carefully tracking every dollar she saves.

Reading Comprehension Check

1. Why does Monica decide to host Thanksgiving dinner at her apartment?

2. What special culinary request does Ross make, and how does Monica respond?

3. Why is Rachel trying to get an advance on her waitressing tips?

4. How do the friends react when Joey announces his new modeling job?



Part 2: Vocabulary Definition Matching

Instructions: Match each target expression on the left with its correct B2-level definition on the right by writing the corresponding letter in the blank.

Target Expression	Match	Definition
1. break the news	[]	A. To intentionally refuse to participate in or buy something as a protest or principle.
2. work on (something)	[]	B. An action or behavior that signals a person urgently needs help or support.
3. boycott	[]	C. To announce or share important (often surprising or difficult) information to someone.
4. cry for help	[]	D. To spend time and effort trying to improve, fix, or develop a specific skill or task.
5. give an advance on	[]	E. To volunteer or offer one's home/venue to organize an event or dinner for guests.
6. offer to host	[]	F. To pay someone a portion of their earned wages or future earnings before the usual date.

Part 3: Contextual Application & Tense Conjugation

Instructions: Complete each sentence below using the most appropriate expression from the vocabulary box. Make sure to **conjugate the verbs into the correct tense** (present, past, continuous, or perfect) based on the sentence context.

Word Bank: break the news | work on | boycott | cry for help | give an advance on | offer to host

1. Yesterday evening, Sarah had to _____ to her team that the product launch would be delayed by two months due to technical glitches.
2. Don't worry if your pronunciation isn't perfect yet; if you keep _____ your vowel sounds every day, you will see great improvement.
3. Last year, several student organizations decided to _____ the university cafeteria until more healthy and affordable options were added to the menu.
4. Because David was moving into a new apartment and needed cash for the security deposit, his manager agreed to _____ his monthly salary.
5. When the local community center flooded last month, several neighborhood families generously _____ small dinner gatherings for displaced residents.
6. Leaving dozens of desperate, unanswered messages on social media late last night was seen by her close friends as a clear _____.
7. Our company is currently _____ a new marketing strategy to attract younger customers across international markets.
8. Before you _____ important news to the client, double-check all the figures in your quarterly financial report.

Part 4: Pair & Group Speaking Activity

Instructions: Take turns discussing these questions with a partner. Practice using the target expressions naturally in your spoken responses.

1. **Breaking News:** Describe a time when you had to break unexpected or difficult news to someone. How did you prepare for the conversation?
2. **Personal Projects:** What is a skill or project you are currently working on in your personal or professional life?
3. **Consumer Choice:** Have you or people in your country ever boycotted a product or company? What was the reason?
4. **Hospitality:** Do you enjoy offering to host events or dinners at your home, or do you prefer being a guest? Explain why.