Warm-up – Holiday Chaos Icebreaker

- *What's the most absurd thing you've ever seen happen during the holidays?*
- *If your family were a Netflix series during Christmas, what genre would it be—comedy, dark comedy, thriller, tragicomedy…? Why?*
- *Which is worse: the drunk uncle, the passive-aggressive aunt, or the friend who brings a ukulele? Defend your answer.*

Reading Text – "The Night Everything Went Wrong (But Somehow Turned Out Fine)"

Every family has its holiday traditions, but mine seems committed to creating new ones by accident. Last Christmas Eve, for example, turned into a series of events so bizarre that I'm still not convinced it wasn't some kind of social experiment.

It all started when my cousin decided it would be "fun" to deep-fry the turkey. *Suppose* he had checked the instructions; *what if* he had noticed the part about "completely dry the turkey first"? But he didn't. So the moment the bird touched the boiling oil, it shot out like a missile, landing in the neighbour's inflatable Santa. Santa exploded. The neighbour screamed. The turkey survived.

Then came the gift exchange. If it *weren't for* my aunt's obsession with scented candles, everything might have gone smoothly. But because she brings one every year, and because everyone knows it, we all panic-buy a candle at the last minute to avoid being the only one without one. *But for* my uncle's brutal honesty, we could have pretended everything was fine. Instead, he unwrapped his candle and said, "Lavender and regret. My favourite."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

And of course, the night ended with the traditional family photo. If you can call "everyone shouting at the dog to stop eating the tinsel" a tradition. The dog eventually threw up something glittery, which honestly looked more festive than our actual decorations.

Looking back, the whole evening felt chaotic, ridiculous, and slightly dangerous. But here's the strange thing: we laughed. A lot. The disasters became stories, the stories became legends, and the legends are now the reason we all show up every year. Chaos, it turns out, is just another kind of holiday magic—much louder and definitely more flammable.

True or False

1. The cousin followed the turkey-frying instructions carefully. TRUE/FALSE
2. The turkey damaged the neighbour's inflatable decoration. TRUE/FALSE
3. The gift exchange usually goes smoothly. TRUE/FALSE
4. The aunt brings a different type of present every year. TRUE/FALSE
5. The uncle pretends to like the candle. TRUE/FALSE
6. The family photo tradition is peaceful and well-organised. TRUE/FALSE
7. The dog eats part of the decorations. TRUE/FALSE
8. The narrator feels embarrassed by the chaos. TRUE/FALSE
9. The disasters eventually become family stories. TRUE/FALSE
10. The narrator believes chaos adds something special to the holidays.

    TRUE/FALSE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary – Holiday Chaos Lexicon

- social experiment
- deep-fry
- to shoot out like a missile
- inflatable Santa
- regret
- panic-buy
- brutal honesty
- festive
- flamable

Mini task: rank each word from "sometimes me" to "definitely me during the holidays."

Grammar – Advanced Hypothetical Narratives

Structures introduced:

1. If it weren't for…

Meaning: This is the reason something *did* happen.

- *If it weren't for my cousin's cooking, we'd all still be alive.*
- *If it weren't for the dog, the decorations would still be intact.*

2. But for…

Meaning: Formal; same as above.

- *But for his honesty, nobody would have admitted the turkey smelled burnt.*

3. Suppose/Supposing…

Meaning: Imagining unrealistic or hypothetical situations.

- *Suppose the turkey hadn't exploded… what would they have ruined instead?*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. What if…?

Meaning: Hypothetical scenario; sometimes humorous or dramatic.

- *What if the neighbour had filmed the whole disaster?*

Multiple Choice

Choose the **ONE correct option**.

1. ___ my cousin's idea of deep-frying, dinner would have been normal.

A) Suppose
B) If it weren't for
C) If he didn't
D) Provided

2. But for ___, the decorations would still be standing.

A) the neighbour panicking
B) if the neighbour had panicked
C) the neighbour is panicking
D) the neighbour having panicked

3. Suppose ___ brought a normal gift this year… what then?

A) my aunt
B) my aunt would
C) my aunt would have
D) my aunt had brought

4. What if ___ turned out to be allergic to tinsel?

A) somebody is unexpectedly
B) somebody unexpectedly
C) somebody had unexpectedly
D) somebody would unexpectedly

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. If it weren't for ___, the night would've been boring.

A) my family's annual disasters
B) my family's having annual disasters
C) my family had annual disasters
D) my family would have annual disasters

6. Suppose the neighbour ___.

A) hadn't screamed
B) didn't scream
C) doesn't scream
D) wouldn't scream

7. But for the dog ___, we wouldn't need a new carpet.

A) eating the tinsel
B) had eaten the tinsel
C) that it ate the tinsel
D) having had eaten the tinsel

8. If it weren't for the candles, ___.

A) the living room will smell normal
B) the living room would smell normal
C) the living room smelled normal
D) the living room has smelled normal

9. What if the turkey ___ again?

A) exploded
B) had exploded
C) would explode
D) is exploding

10. Suppose nobody had recorded the chaos... ___?

A) anybody believed this story
B) will anybody believe this story
C) would anybody believe this story
D) anybody would have believed this story

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Bizarre Holiday Generator

Choose 3 items from each category to build a ridiculous hypothetical story:

Category A – Weird holiday characters

- the cousin who only speaks in movie quotes
- the uncle who brings fireworks "just in case"
- the friend who microdoses ayahuasca
- the neighbour who dresses like an elf unironically
- the grandma who eats the decorations thinking they're candy

Category B – Unexpected disasters

- a turkey that won't stop sliding across the floor
- fireworks inside the living room
- a dog wearing the Christmas lights like a crown
- a tree that collapses every 5 minutes
- a gift that starts leaking (no one knows why)

Category C – Hypothetical twists

- *Suppose* someone recorded it and it went viral…
- *What if* the family decided this should happen every year?
- *If it weren't for* the neighbour's intervention…
- *But for* the dog, everything would've been calm…
- *Supposing* this was all part of a prank…

Speaking Task

Role-play:

You are being interviewed for a podcast called:

"Holiday Disasters That Shouldn't Be Funny (But Absolutely Are)"

You must tell:

- one real holiday disaster OR
- one invented bizarre scenario

Using at least **4 grammar structures** and **5 vocabulary items**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS