

Halloween

Beginner Level





Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. wizard | a) a greeting kids use when knocking on doors on Halloween |
| _____ 2. haunted house | b) a sorcerer, a wise man with magical powers |
| _____ 3. monster | c) the handle of a broom |
| _____ 4. cowboy | d) a scary house full of spirits |
| _____ 5. witch | e) a site where dead bodies and remains are buried |
| _____ 6. broomstick | f) a scary, imaginary creature |
| _____ 7. Trick or treat! | g) a sorceress, an evil woman who casts spells |
| _____ 8. trick-or-treating | h) a person who works on a ranch and rides horses |
| _____ 9. pirate | i) a thief that lives and operates on the water |
| _____ 10. zombie | j) a dead body that has come back to life |
| _____ 11. pumpkin | k) going from house to house asking for candy |
| _____ 12. graveyard | l) the bones of a person or animal |
| _____ 13. skeleton | m) the spirit of a dead person |
| _____ 14. ghost | n) a carved pumpkin |
| _____ 15. jack-o'-lantern | o) a round orange fruit with many seeds |





Reading

1. October 31 is Halloween. Halloween is not a holiday, but it is a very special day for children in Canada and the United States. On Halloween, children dress up in costumes. Some children wear masks and some children wear makeup. They dress up as monsters, famous people, ghosts, wizards, witches, cartoon characters, pirates, and more. In the evening, they walk around their neighborhoods and go from house to house shouting “trick or treat” or “Halloween apples.” At each house, people give out many different kinds of candy. In the past, it was also very common to give children apples on Halloween.
2. One traditional custom of Halloween is to put a jack-o'-lantern in the window. To make a jack-o'-lantern, people clean out the inside of a pumpkin, cut out a face, and put a candle inside. People often decorate their homes with pictures of black cats, spiders, witches, bats, and ghosts.
3. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write your answers in the spaces below.

1. What day is Halloween?

2. Is Halloween a holiday?

3. What do some children dress up as on Halloween?

4. What do children shout when they go from house to house?

5. What do people at each house give children?

6. Where do people sometimes put jack-o'-lanterns on Halloween?

7. What do people sometimes put inside their jack-o'-lanterns?

8. How do people sometimes decorate their homes on Halloween?



Just for Fun

Unscramble the following words from the reading.
Then find some of them in the word search below.

A. Unscramble the Words

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. ackj-o'-telrnna | _____ | 6. chwit | _____ |
| 2. unthead oseuh | _____ | 7. diarwz | _____ |
| 3. ritape | _____ | 8. stromen | _____ |
| 4. dragveray | _____ | 9. crikt-or-greatint | _____ |
| 5. stelkeon | _____ | 10. shotg | _____ |

B. Find the Words

Can you find nine words from today's lesson in the word search on the right? Some of the words are from the exercise above and some are from the reading.

g	h	o	s	t	e	r	p	s	t	h
m	r	i	b	u	v	u	m	h	i	a
t	w	a	s	t	m	s	w	s	c	l
e	h	s	v	p	s	s	i	a	s	l
s	i	s	k	e	l	e	t	o	n	o
s	m	i	s	s	y	s	c	s	s	w
o	n	v	e	s	s	a	h	u	a	e
c	o	s	t	u	m	e	r	s	o	e
d	e	c	o	r	a	t	e	d	m	n



Halloween Survey

A. Survey

Walk around your classroom and ask your classmates the following questions.

Classmate	Are you going to dress up for Halloween this year?	What are you going to dress up as?

B. Questions

After you have finished the survey, answer the following questions on your own.

- 1. How many people in your class are going to dress up for Halloween?

- 2. What is the most interesting costume?

- 3. Are any students going to dress up as the same thing? If yes, how many?

- 4. What did you dress up as last year?

- 5. Do you like Halloween?



Storytelling

Have you ever heard a scary ghost story? Do you like ghost stories?
With a partner, try to invent your own scary ghost story and write it on
the lines below. Once you've finished, be prepared to read it to your class.



Answer Key

NOTE:

These activities are designed for beginner-level adult ESL learners, but they may also be suitable for young ESL students.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

This lesson includes useful vocabulary, a short reading, and a few word puzzles. Students try to write their own ghost stories.

LEVEL: Beginner

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: holidays, Halloween, spirit, ghost, October, fall, scary, tradition

Vocabulary Preview

- | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 5. g | 9. i | 13. l |
| 2. d | 6. c | 10. j | 14. m |
| 3. f | 7. a | 11. o | 15. n |
| 4. h | 8. k | 12. e | |

Reading & Comprehension

Have the students read the passage silently, or have the students take turns reading aloud in order to monitor pronunciation. After reading the passage, break the students into pairs and have them practice asking and answering the comprehension questions. At the end of the oral practice, have the students write the answers. Review again orally with the whole class.

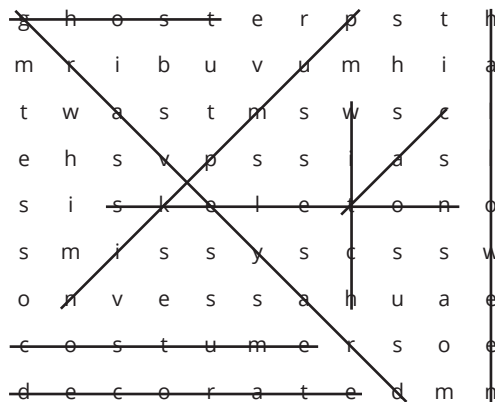
- Halloween is on October 31.
- No, Halloween is not a holiday.
- Some children dress up as monsters, famous people, ghosts, witches, etc.
- They shout “trick or treat” or “Halloween apples.”
- They give children candy.
- People sometimes put jack-o’-lanterns in their windows.
- People sometimes put candles inside their jack-o’-lanterns.
- People sometimes decorate their homes with black cats, spiders, ghosts, etc.

Just for Fun

A. UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. jack-o’-lantern | 6. witch |
| 2. haunted house | 7. wizard |
| 3. pirate | 8. monster |
| 4. graveyard | 9. trick-or-treating |
| 5. skeleton | 10. ghost |

B. FIND THE WORDS



Group Activity – Survey

Individual answers.

Storytelling

Individual answers.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Neighborhoods*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Neighbourhoods*. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the text and see if they know the alternate spelling.