



# Halloween

October 31<sup>st</sup> - the scariest night of  
the year!



# Halloween

Halloween is celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> October every year. The tradition of Halloween started in Ireland and is now popular in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Some people believe that at Halloween the spirits of dead people return to Earth.



# Halloween in England

In England there are a lot of Halloween traditions, which include:

- Carving pumpkins – people buy a pumpkin and carve a scary face into it. Then they put a candle in it and put it in the window.



- ‘Trick or treat’ – children in England dress up in a Halloween costume and go to their neighbours’ houses. They knock on the door and say ‘Trick or Treat’. The neighbour must give them sweets or chocolate (a ‘treat’) or the children will play a trick on the neighbour, for example they will throw an egg at the neighbour’s house. But this is not very common!



- Costume parties – teenagers and adults celebrate Halloween with costume parties. They dress up as ghosts or witches and go to parties in houses or discos.
- Horror films – teenagers and adults often watch horror films at Halloween because they are scary. There are lots of horror films called ‘Halloween’.



# Halloween and Me

- To celebrate Halloween I dress up in a costume and go to a costume party every year. I have had lots of costumes, for example I have dressed up as a witch, a cat, a fairy and a devil.



- My best costume ever was when my friends and I dressed up as blind mice. These mice are characters in an English song for children, called 'Three Blind Mice.' It was a funny costume and the people at the party liked it.



# Your Halloween Costume

- My Halloween costume for this year is a witch. I will wear a black dress, black shoes and a big black hat. I will also have a toy cat and a broomstick.



- If you were invited to a Halloween costume party, what costume would you wear? Describe it.



# La Castanyada

- How will you celebrate La Castanyada this year?
  - Who will you be with?
  - What will you eat?
  - Where will you go?

# Horror Films

Slasher film	A film in which people are killed with knives very violently
Gory	Involving blood and violence
Tense	Filled with suspense.
Zombie	A dead person who has returned to life
Trapped	Not able to escape from a place
Vampire	Person who drinks blood
Killer	Person who kills other people
Victim	Person who is killed
Graveyard	A place where dead people are buried
Psychopath	A crazy and dangerous person

Horror films are very popular, especially at Halloween.

- Do you like horror films?
- What is the scariest horror film you have ever seen? What happens in the film?



# Do you agree or disagree with the statements? Why?

- It is good for young children to watch horror films.
- It is better to watch a horror film in the cinema than on DVD.
- Horror films make people violent.
- Everybody is scared of horror films. Nobody really enjoys horror films – they just pretend to.

# My imaginary horror film

- My horror film would be set in an old castle in Scotland with no other houses nearby.
- The killer would be the ghost of a Queen who lived in the castle a hundred years ago.
- The victims would be students on a school trip.



# Your own horror film

- Where would you set your horror film? (in a forest, in a castle?)
- Who would the killer be?
- Who would the victims be?
- What would happen in your horror film? Why would it be scary?

# Answer the questions with 'True' or 'False'.

- The writer has liked horror films since she was a child.
- She finds all horror films amusing rather than frightening.
- One zombie film she mentions does not end well.
- Not all zombie films are supposed to be taken seriously.



# A scene from my horror film

The students are in the big dining room in the castle. They are telling ghost stories.

Student A: I don't want to hear any more ghost stories. I don't like them.

Student B: You don't believe in ghosts do you? Everybody knows ghosts don't exist.

Student A: But.... In this big old castle... maybe they do...

- Student B: You're an idiot. Ghosts aren't real. And even if they were real, I wouldn't be scared of them!
- Ghost Queen suddenly appears in the room. She looks angry and is holding a big knife. She looks at Student B.
- Ghost Queen: So you're not scared of ghosts?
- Student B: Arrrrggggghhh!

# Halloween Vocabulary: Match the words to the descriptions

1. Witch
2. Bat
3. Pumpkin
4. Ghost
5. To carve
6. Costume
7. Haunted
8. Skeleton
9. Costume Party
10. Scary
11. Mask
12. Skull

- A. Small animal that flies at night.
- B. To cut with a large knife, for example to cut a scary face into a pumpkin.
- C. Scary clothing worn at Halloween.
- D. A party or gathering where everyone dresses in scary costumes.
- E. Spirit of a dead person.
- F. Visited by ghosts, usually a house or a castle.
- G. Covering for the face worn as a disguise.
- H. Large round orange vegetable used at Halloween to make lanterns.
- I. Frightening.
- J. The bones of the body.
- K. The bones of the head.
- L. An ugly woman, wearing a black cloak and pointed hat, who has evil powers.

# Reading Exercise

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine/halloween>

# Listening Exercise

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/i-wanna-talk-about/horror-films>