

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# READING: Mexico's Day of the Dead

## Vocabulary Preview

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

- |                        |          |  |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| 1. pumpkin             | <u>E</u> | A. the bones inside a person's head                |
| 2. costume             | _____    | B. to ask for candy during Halloween               |
| 3. trick-or-treat (v.) | _____    | C. a place where dead people are buried            |
| 4. celebrate (v.)      | _____    | D. being done in the same way for a long time      |
| 5. traditional         | _____    | E. a large, round orange fruit                     |
| 6. skull               | _____    | F. the soul or ghost of a dead person              |
| 7. cemetery            | _____    | G. a set of clothes (especially worn at Halloween) |
| 8. spirit              | _____    | H. to remember a special day with other people     |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense if necessary.

1. My grandfather prefers to do things in traditional ways.
2. Last week, I \_\_\_\_\_ my son's birthday. He is three years old.
3. Steven wore a very scary \_\_\_\_\_ to the Halloween party.
4. Your \_\_\_\_\_ protects your brain.
5. Most kids love to \_\_\_\_\_ at Halloween and get lots of candy.
6. Many people like to cut scary faces in Halloween \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Do you believe that we can talk to the \_\_\_\_\_ of dead people?
8. Many \_\_\_\_\_ are located in or near churchyards.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

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## READING

Topics: Countries / Halloween

# Mexico's Day of the Dead



Halloween comes every year on October 31, and with it comes candy, **pumpkins**, **costumes**, and **trick-or-treating**. Many people in central and southern Mexico, however, **celebrate** another **traditional**, special day just a few days later on November 1 and November 2. It's called, the "Day of the Dead." Children make candy **skulls** and eat them, and women bake 'Day of the Dead' bread. People light candles, prepare flowers, and people visit **cemeteries** at night, to be close to the **spirits** of friends and family members who have died. Mexicans bring gifts such as food and drinks for the souls of the dead, and even toys for dead children. Church bells ring all night, and most people don't leave until the morning. For people who live in other countries, all of this may sound a little scary. However, the 'Day of the Dead' is a time for Mexicans to remember their loved ones by telling stories about them to each other and to their children. For many people in Mexico, the 'Day of the Dead' is a way to **celebrate** life.

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## READING

### Grammar Practice

# Mexico's Day of the Dead



Halloween (1)\_\_\_\_\_ every year on October 31, and with it comes candy, pumpkins, costumes, and trick-or-treating. Many people (2)\_\_\_\_\_ central and southern Mexico, however, celebrate another traditional, special day just a few days later (3)\_\_\_\_\_ November 1 and November 2. It's called, the "Day of the Dead." Children make candy skulls and (4)\_\_\_\_\_ them, and women bake 'Day of the Dead' bread. People light candles, prepare flowers, and people (5)\_\_\_\_\_ cemeteries (6)\_\_\_\_\_ night, to be close to the spirits of friends and family members who have (7)\_\_\_\_\_. Mexicans bring gifts such as food and drinks (8)\_\_\_\_\_ the souls of the dead, and even toys for dead children. Church bells ring all night, and most people (9)\_\_\_\_\_ leave until the morning. For people who live in other countries, all of this may sound a little (10)\_\_\_\_\_. However, the 'Day of the Dead' is a time for Mexicans to remember (11)\_\_\_\_\_ loved ones by telling stories about (12)\_\_\_\_\_ to each other and to their children. For many people in Mexico, the 'Day of the Dead' is a way to celebrate life.

1.

- (A) coming
- (B) came
- (C) comes

2.

- (A) in
- (B) at
- (C) on

3.

- (A) at
- (B) on
- (C) in

4.

- (A) ate
- (B) eating
- (C) eat

5.

- (A) visits
- (B) visit
- (C) visiting

6.

- (A) in
- (B) at
- (C) on

7.

- (A) dead
- (B) dies
- (C) died

8.

- (A) with
- (B) by
- (C) for

9.

- (A) don't
- (B) aren't
- (C) weren't

10.

- (A) scares
- (B) scary
- (C) scare

11.

- (A) they're
- (B) their
- (C) there

12.

- (A) them
- (B) they
- (C) their

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# READING: Mexico's Day of the Dead

## How Much Do You Understand?

● *According to the article, write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The article is about Halloween in Mexico.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone in Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Food is an important part of the celebration.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Most people leave the cemeteries in the morning.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The Day of the Dead is a very scary time for most Mexicans.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Kids listen to stories about people who have died.

## Discuss

● *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. How are Halloween and the Day of the Dead similar / different?
2. Does Mexico's Day of the Dead sound scary to you? Why? / Why not?
3. Do you think it's a good idea to remember people who have died?  
Why? / Why not?

## Write

● *Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.*

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**Lesson "Mexico's Day of the Dead"**

**Grammar Focus** Mixed (includes Present Perfect)

**Vocabulary** 179 words  
**A1** words-71% / **A2** words-17% / **B1** words-4% / **B2** words-1%  
**AWL Words** in this text: *traditional*  
 Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

**Level** Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

**ANSWER KEY Page 1**

*My Notes*



● **Vocabulary Preview**

- |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1. E | 1. traditional         |
| 2. G | 2. celebrated <b>d</b> |
| 3. B | 3. costume             |
| 4. H | 4. skull               |
| 5. D | 5. trick-or-treat      |
| 6. A | 6. pumpkins <b>s</b>   |
| 7. C | 7. spirits <b>s</b>    |
| 8. F | 8. cemeteries <b>s</b> |

**ANSWER KEY Page 3**

**ANSWER KEY Page 4**

● **Grammar (Article)**

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 7. C  |
| 2. A | 8. C  |
| 3. B | 9. A  |
| 4. C | 10. B |
| 5. A | 11. B |
| 6. B | 12. A |

● **How Much Do You Understand?**

1. F (*It is about Mexico's Day of the Dead.*)
2. F (*Many people in central and southern Mexico, not everyone.*)
3. T
4. T
5. F (*People in other countries may think it's scary.*)
6. T

**Article Sources**

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day\\_of\\_the\\_Dead#Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead#Europe)
- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/donna-henes/day-of-the-dead\\_b\\_8441198.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/donna-henes/day-of-the-dead_b_8441198.html)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY9CdisU67Q> (*Day of the Dead Traditions in Mexico*)
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/28/travel/mexico-city-day-of-the-day-parade/index.html>