

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING

What is Halloween?

Vocabulary Preview

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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| 1. traditional | <u>E</u> | A. an imaginary animal that is large and scary |
| 2. celebration | _____ | B. something that you wear over your face to hide it |
| 3. nowadays | _____ | C. a special day with special activities |
| 4. monster | _____ | D. a large round orange vegetable with thick skin |
| 5. mask | _____ | E. beliefs or customs that have not changed for a long time |
| 6. make-up | _____ | F. colors used on your skin to change the way you look |
| 7. pumpkin | _____ | G. recently (especially compared with the past) |
| 8. pray for | _____ | H. to ask God for something |

- **Use the above words to complete the sentences. Change the forms of verbs and nouns when necessary.**

1. Have you ever tasted pumpkin pie? It's delicious.
2. Most Hollywood actors use _____ on their face.
3. I love to watch horror movies with lots of scary _____!
4. Farmers sometimes _____ rain so that their crops will grow.
5. Independence Day is a national _____.
6. Bank robbers usually wear a _____ when they rob a bank.
7. _____, the climate is getting hotter and hotter in many places.
8. Shaking hands is a _____ way to greet someone new.

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

1. _____

2. _____

NAME: _____

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Topic: Halloween

What is Halloween?



If you're new to the United States, Canada, or maybe a few other countries, you may be asking yourself, "What exactly is Halloween?" Well, here's the answer! Halloween is a **traditional¹ celebration²** that first began in Europe many hundreds of years ago, perhaps even thousands of years ago. At that time, some people believed that ghosts of dead people visited living people. **Nowadays³**, it is a special day in several countries around the world, but it is perhaps most popular in the United States and Canada. It is always on the same date every year: October 31. Although it is a special day, it is not a holiday. People must still go to school and to work on this day (unless it is on a Saturday or a Sunday). Around this time, people like to tell scary stories and watch horror movies. In the evening on October 31, children wear costumes. Costumes are clothes that make people look like animals, **monsters⁴** or other interesting people. They might be very funny, or they might be quite scary. The costumes often include a face **mask⁵**, or some **make-up⁶** painted on the person's face. So, for example, on Halloween you might see a dinosaur, or an elephant, a witch with a tall black hat, a ghost, or maybe even a famous person like a movie star! Young children often go from house to house and ask for candy by saying, "Trick or treat?" Many older kids and adults also put on costumes, and then they go to Halloween parties. Even animals are included in the fun, as many pets are also dressed up in costumes. It is not at all unusual to see a cat or a dog dressed like a **pumpkin⁷**, or maybe even a hotdog! Jack-o-lanterns are very common during this time. They are pumpkins with lights inside and faces cut into them. A lot of people like to put them in their windows or just outside their doors so that other people can see them. In Mexico, a similar traditional celebration is called 'The Day of the Dead' and during this special time, many Mexican families and friends come together for three days to **pray for⁸**, and remember, people who have died. Most people, both young and old, have a lot of fun on Halloween. "Happy Halloween" everyone!

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Grammar Practice

What is Halloween?

If you're new to the United States, Canada, or maybe a few other countries, you may be asking yourself, "What exactly is Halloween?" Well, here's the answer! Halloween is a traditional celebration that first **(1)**_____ in Europe many hundreds of years ago, perhaps even thousands of years ago. **(2)**_____ that time, some people **(3)**_____ that ghosts of dead people visited **(4)**_____ people. Nowadays, it is a special day **(5)**_____ several countries around the world, but it is perhaps most popular in the United States and Canada. It is always **(6)**_____ the same date every year: October 31. Although it is a special day, it is not a holiday. People must still go to school and to work on this day (unless it is on a Saturday or a Sunday). Around this time, people like to tell **(7)**_____ stories and watch horror movies. In the evening on October 31, children wear costumes. Costumes are clothes that make people look like animals, monsters or other interesting people. They **(8)**_____ very funny, or they might be quite scary. The costumes often include **(9)**_____ face mask, or some make-up painted on the person's face. So, for example, on Halloween you **(10)**_____ see a dinosaur, or an elephant, a witch with a tall black hat, a ghost, or maybe even a famous person like a **(11)**_____! Young children often go from house to house and ask for candy by saying, "Trick or treat?" Many older kids and adults also put on costumes, and then they **(12)**_____ to Halloween parties.

1.

- (A) begin
- (B) begun
- (C) began

2.

- (A) At
- (B) On
- (C) In

3.

- (A) believe
- (B) believed
- (C) believing

4.

- (A) living
- (B) lives
- (C) lived

5.

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

6.

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

7.

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

8.

- (A) might be
- (B) might
- (C) may

9.

- (A) an
- (B) a
- (C) the

10.

- (A) might be
- (B) might
- (C) are might

11.

- (A) movie starring
- (B) movie's star
- (C) movie star

12.

- (A) go
- (B) went
- (C) have gone

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How Much Do You Understand?

● **Complete the statements.**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Halloween first began | A. believed ghosts visited living people. |
| 2. People at that time | B. on October 31 every year. |
| 3. Halloween is celebrated | C. and ask you for candy. |
| 4. Both children and adults like | D. to wear costumes on Halloween. |
| 5. You might even see a dog | E. in Europe a very long time ago. |
| 6. Children might go to your home | F. that is dressed like a hot dog. |

Discuss

● **Discuss the following questions with your classmates.**

1. Discuss any similar traditional celebrations you might have in your country.
2. Do you believe in ghosts? Why? / Why not?
3. Do you enjoy watching horror movies? Why? / Why not?
4. Did you do anything special for Halloween last year? Are you going to do anything special for Halloween this year? What?

Write and Talk About It

● **Write the names of three scary stories or movies that you know about? Then discuss: Which of these is the scariest (in your opinion)? Why?**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Title "What is Halloween?"

Grammar Focus Mixed: Present Simple, Past Simple, Present Perfect, Might and Maybe

Vocabulary 389 words

A1 words-74% / **A2** words-14% / **B1** words-4% / **B2** words-3% /

C1 words-0% / **C2** words-0% / **Off List**-5%

AWL Words in this text: *adults, similar, traditional*

Vocabulary Analysis by: *vocabkitchen.com*

Level Intermediate to Upper Intermediate (CEFR B1 – B2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

● Vocabulary

- | | |
|------|----------------|
| 1. E | 1. pumpkin |
| 2. C | 2. make-up |
| 3. G | 3. monsters |
| 4. A | 4. pray for |
| 5. B | 5. celebration |
| 6. F | 6. mask |
| 7. D | 7. Nowadays |
| 8. H | 8. traditional |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

● Grammar

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

ANSWER KEY Page 4

● How Much Do You Understand?

- Halloween first began (E) in Europe a very long time ago.
- People at that time (A) believed ghosts visited living people.
- Halloween is celebrated (B) on October 31 every year.
- Both children and adults like (D) to wear costumes on Halloween.
- You might even see a dog (F) that is dressed like a hot dog.
- Children might go to your home (C) and ask you for candy.

Watch the matching video with subtitles!



Article Sources

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>
- 25 Fun Halloween Facts to Trick (or Treat) Your Friends*
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- 2021 Pet Halloween Costume Trends*
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