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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/10/13

## Halloween!

Today, let's talk about Halloween. It occurs once a year on the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> October. It's the most likely time you'll see people dressed up as witches, ghosts, skeletons, monsters, devils, or other weird, supernatural, creatures.

Halloween parties are popular among both children and adults, and dressing up in costume is all part of the fun! Watch out for many a pumpkin with spooky eyes and teeth lit by a candle. Halloween colours are black and orange. Watch out for the spooky masks!

In American terms it's 'trick or treat' night! For those that don't already know - 'trick or treat' is when children go round to your front door, dressed up as witches or ghosts, and say 'trick or treat!' In order for the child to get their reward or treat, they need to perform a song or trick.

Failure to reward the child with sweets, or money, can result in flour ending up on your window, or some other misdemeanour happening! This practice actually goes back to somewhere in Europe, in the Middle Ages.

Halloween is a Christian term, deriving from *All Hallows' Eve*. It is thought to have Pagan roots. Halloween has Celtic origins in Scotland and Ireland. The name and customs took over from *Samhain*. This is a celebration on October 31<sup>st</sup>, to mark the end of the harvest period, and the beginning of the dark period of winter.

Irish migration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century took the culture of Halloween over to America. Confined to the Irish immigrant's, it gradually spread right across America, into what it is today. Around the world, folk celebrate Halloween in different ways. In America, pumpkins, known as Jack-o-lanterns, are popular. Ireland sees lit bonfires and firework displays. **(Continued on page 4)**

## SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about Halloween. Go round the room swapping details with others.

## LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

## READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

## SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

### Student A questions

- 1) What day is Halloween?
- 2) What are pumpkins known as?
- 3) What happened in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- 4) What is trick or treat?
- 5) What derives from what Christian term?

### Student B questions

- 1) What is Samhain?
- 2) People dress up as what at Halloween?
- 3) What is apple bobbing?
- 4) Name the second game played at Halloween.
- 5) Watch out for what?

**Category: Halloween / 31 October / Witches & Pumpkins**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Halloween! - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Halloween**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three costumes you might choose to dress up in. Add three props you would use with your costume. Talk about them! Add three Halloween games you might play!

### SPEAKING – CREATE A SPELL

*In pairs,* Write and create a witches spell! *Allow 3 minutes preparation time.*

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to hear it in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - STORYTIME - HALLOWEEN

*In pairs,* create a good Halloween story to tell the class. *Allow 3 minutes preparation time.*

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their suggestions to the class.

### SPEAKING – ALL SAINTS DAY

*In pairs,* discuss what you know about 'All Saints Day' that is on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. *3 mins*

*The teacher* will choose some students to hear their thoughts in front of the class.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What was the best Halloween party you went to?
- 3) How do you celebrate Halloween in your country?
- 4) Is Halloween too commercial? Explain.
- 5) Do you know any witches?
- 6) Have you ever played trick or treat?
- 7) Do you know of any superstitious stories that are told at Halloween?
- 8) Have you ever made a Jack-o-lantern?
- 9) Have you ever played 'bob an apple' or tried to eat a toffee apple on a string? Explain.
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *Witches Cave* television studio in *Cauldron, Spooky Valley*. Today's interview is: *Halloween*. *10 mins.*

- 1) A witch/wizard.
- 2) A skeleton.
- 3) A pumpkin.
- 4) A ghost.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* You are in a bar. Start a conversation about Halloween in your town/city. *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING – JOKES & FUNNY SAYINGS

*In pairs* - Think of as many Halloween jokes or funny sayings as you can. Use Google to help you! *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING – GAME

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class – In a circle.

"I went to a Halloween party and I saw..."

Repeat the previous things then add one more...Forget one and you are eliminated!

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you been to a Halloween party recently?
- 3) Have you ever had 'trick or treat' played on you?
- 4) Why is Halloween so popular?
- 5) What is your favourite Halloween character?
- 6) Have you ever seen any of the Halloween movies?
- 7) Has anything strange happened to you at Halloween?
- 8) Have you ever dressed up as a Halloween character?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Halloween!

Today, let's talk about Halloween. It occurs once a year on the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> October. It's the most likely time you'll see people dressed up as (1)\_\_\_, ghosts, (2)\_\_\_, monsters, devils, or other weird, supernatural, creatures.

Halloween parties are popular among both children and adults, and dressing up in (3)\_\_\_ is all part of the fun! Watch out for many a (4)\_\_\_ with (5)\_\_\_ eyes and teeth lit by a candle. Halloween colours are black and orange. Watch out for the spooky masks!

In American terms it's 'trick or treat' night! For those that don't already know - '(6)\_\_\_ or treat' is when children go round to your front door, dressed up as witches or (7)\_\_\_, and say 'trick or treat!' In order for the child to get their (8)\_\_\_ or treat, they need to perform a song or trick.

**pumpkin / skeletons / trick / costume / spooky / ghosts / witches / reward**

(1)\_\_\_ to reward the child with sweets, or money, can result in flour ending up on your window, or some other (2)\_\_\_ happening! This practice actually goes back to somewhere in Europe, in the Middle Ages.

Halloween is a Christian term, deriving from *All Hallows' Eve*. It is thought to have Pagan (3)\_\_\_ . Halloween has Celtic (4)\_\_\_ in Scotland and Ireland. The name and customs took over from *Samhain*. This is a celebration on October 31<sup>st</sup>, to mark the end of the (5)\_\_\_ period, and the beginning of the dark period of winter.

Irish migration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century took the culture of Halloween over to America. Confined to the Irish immigrant's it gradually spread right across America into what it is today. Around the world (6)\_\_\_ celebrate (7)\_\_\_ in different ways. In America pumpkins, known as Jack-o-lanterns, are popular. Ireland sees lit (8)\_\_\_ and firework displays.

**bonfires / origins / failure / folk / harvest / Halloween / roots / misdemeanour**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Halloween!

Today, let's talk (1)\_\_\_ Halloween. It occurs once a year on the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> October. It's the most likely time you'll see people dressed up as witches, ghosts, skeletons, monsters, devils, or (2)\_\_\_ weird, supernatural, creatures.

Halloween parties are popular among both children and adults, and dressing up in costume is all part of the fun! Watch out for (3)\_\_\_ a pumpkin with spooky eyes and teeth lit by a candle. Halloween colours are black and orange. Watch out for the spooky masks!

In American terms it's 'trick or treat' night! For (4)\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_ don't already know - 'trick or treat' is (6)\_\_\_ children go round to (7)\_\_\_ front door, dressed up as witches or ghosts, and say 'trick or treat!' In order for the child to get their reward or treat, (8)\_\_\_ need to perform a song or trick.

**when / about / they / those / many / that / your / other**

Failure to reward the child with sweets, or money, can result in flour ending up (1)\_\_\_ your window, (2)\_\_\_ some other misdemeanour happening! This practice actually goes back to somewhere in Europe, in (3)\_\_\_ Middle Ages.

Halloween is (4)\_\_\_ Christian term, deriving from *All Hallows' Eve*. (5)\_\_\_ is thought to have Pagan roots. Halloween has Celtic origins (6)\_\_\_ Scotland and Ireland. The name and customs took over from *Samhain*. This is a celebration on October 31<sup>st</sup>, to mark the end of the harvest period, and the beginning of the dark period (7)\_\_\_ winter.

Irish migration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century took the culture of Halloween over to America. Confined to the Irish immigrant's it gradually spread right across America into what it is today. Around the world folk celebrate Halloween in different ways. In America pumpkins, known (8)\_\_\_ Jack-o-lanterns, are popular. Ireland sees lit bonfires and firework displays.

**of / it / on / as / in / or / a / the**

## Halloween! - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### Halloween!

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In American terms it's 'trick or treat' night! For those that don't already know - '\_\_\_\_\_' is when children go round to your front door, dressed up as \_\_\_\_\_, and say 'trick or treat!' In order for the child to get their reward or treat, they need to perform a song or trick.

\_\_\_\_\_ the child with sweets, or money, can result in flour ending up on your window, or some other misdemeanour happening! This practice actually goes back to somewhere in Europe, in the Middle Ages. Halloween is a Christian term, deriving from *All Hallows' Eve*.

It is thought to have Pagan roots. Halloween has Celtic origins in \_\_\_\_\_. The name and customs took over from *Samhain*. This is a celebration on October 31<sup>st</sup>, to mark the end of the harvest period, and the beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Irish migration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century took the culture of Halloween over to America. Confined to the Irish immigrant's, \_\_\_\_\_ right across America, into what it is today. Around the world, folk celebrate Halloween in different ways. In America, pumpkins, known as Jack-o-lanterns, are popular. Ireland sees lit bonfires \_\_\_\_\_.

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### WRITING/SPEAKING

#### Continued from the front page...

Apple bobbing, and trying to eat a toffee apple that is hanging from a string, are two popular games played at Halloween. Haunted houses, or graveyards, are popular at Halloween. Many people like to tell haunted stories, or watch horror movies like *Halloween!* Of course, no Halloween would be complete without candles, a black cat, and a witch, flying around on her broomstick. These days, Halloween is very commercial!

Halloween precedes All Saints Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. This Catholic festival is also known also as 'The Day of the Dead'. All Saints Day is a public holiday, in many countries. It's when people in Central Europe visit their relatives' graves. Many road accidents occur on this day.

**Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Halloween**. Your email can be read out in class.

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) pumpkin
- 2) Halloween
- 3) popular
- 4) costume
- 5) spooky
- 6) colours
- 7) masks
- 8) supernatural
- 9) weird
- 10) reward

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) failure
- 12) misdemeanour
- 13) somewhere
- 14) deriving
- 15) thought
- 16) celebration
- 17) migration
- 18) gradually
- 19) different
- 20) occur

Halloween! - *15<sup>th</sup> October 2013*