



Welcoming October 2024

AUTUMN AND SPOOKY NEWSLETTER

Embrace the Autumn and Spooky Season

ISSUE 5



Embrace the Autumn and Spooky Season

The days are getting shorter, the air is cooler, and the leaves are transforming into beautiful shades of red and gold. It's the perfect time to cozy up with a warm drink and immerse yourself in the magic of the autumn season. But October also brings a sense of mystery and excitement with the arrival of Halloween, a holiday filled with ancient traditions, spooky stories, and festive fun. Whether you're carving pumpkins, planning a costume, or enjoying the crisp autumn air, this month is full of opportunities to learn and celebrate. In this newsletter, we'll be exploring the origins of Halloween, sharing some seasonal vocabulary, and giving you fun activities to improve your English in a festive way. So, get ready to embrace all things autumn, and let's have some fun with English this October!



"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
— L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

Autumn & Halloween Vocabulary

This month, we're introducing some fun and spooky words that are perfect for the autumn and Halloween season. Check out the list below and try to use them in your conversations and writing!

- **Crisp (adjective):** Fresh and cool, used to describe autumn weather.
 - **Example:** The crisp air of October makes me want to go for a walk in the park.
- **Harvest (noun):** The time when crops are gathered from the fields.
 - **Example:** Farmers are busy with the harvest during autumn.
- **Spooky (adjective):** Strange and frightening, often associated with Halloween.
 - **Example:** We told spooky stories around the campfire on Halloween night.
- **Pumpkin (noun):** A large, round vegetable, typically orange, used in Halloween decorations and recipes.
 - **Example:** We carved a scary face into the pumpkin for Halloween.

- **Costume (noun):** Clothes worn to look like someone or something else, often worn during Halloween.
 - **Example:** I'm going to wear a witch costume this Halloween!
- **Jack-o'-lantern (noun):** A carved pumpkin, usually with a face, lit up by a candle inside, traditionally made for Halloween.
 - **Example:** The glowing jack-o'-lantern on our porch looks so spooky at night.
- **Superstition (noun):** A belief in supernatural influences, often leading to rituals or traditions.
 - **Example:** There's a superstition that seeing a black cat on Halloween brings bad luck.
- **Haunted (adjective):** Inhabited or visited by ghosts.
 - **Example:** They say that old mansion is haunted, but no one dares to go inside!
- **Trick-or-treat (phrase):** A Halloween activity where children dress up in costumes and go door-to-door asking for candy.
 - **Example:** The kids are excited to go trick-or-treating this year!
- **Eerie (adjective):** Strange and frightening.
 - **Example:** An eerie silence filled the forest just before the storm hit.



Fun Activity: Match the Word to the Definition!

Below are the words and their definitions, but they've been mixed up.

Can you match them correctly? Give it a try!

1. Eerie	A. A carved, glowing pumpkin made for Halloween.
2. Harvest	B. Clothes worn to look like someone or something else.
3. Jack-o'-lantern	C. A belief in supernatural influences or rituals.
4. Trick-or-treat	D. Strange and frightening.
5. Spooky	E. The time when crops are gathered from the fields.
6. Costume	F. Inhabited or visited by ghosts.
7. Pumpkin	G. A Halloween activity where children go door-to-door asking for candy.
8. Haunted	H. A large, round vegetable, usually orange, used in Halloween decorations.



Halloween Origins & Traditions

Halloween originally comes from an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain, celebrated over 2,000 years ago. People believed that on October 31st, the line between the living and the dead blurred, and they would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Today, Halloween is a fun holiday filled with costumes, trick-or-treating, and spooky stories!



Spooky Stories

A Spooky Tale: *The Mysterious Knock*

It was a cold, windy October night. The trees outside swayed, casting eerie shadows on the walls. As Emma sat reading a book in her cozy living room, she suddenly heard a knock at the door. It was late—too late for visitors.

Knock, knock, knock.

Emma's heart raced. She stood up slowly and tiptoed to the door, peeking through the window. No one was there. Confused, she opened the door a crack, just to be sure. The street was empty, and the wind howled through the night.

Shrugging it off as a prank, she returned to her book. But just as she settled back in, she heard it again.

Knock, knock, knock.

This time, it was louder. Her hands trembled as she approached the door. She flung it open, expecting to find someone playing a trick on her.

But again, no one was there.

Just as she was about to close the door, she looked down—and froze. There, on the doorstep, was a single, small handprint. It was too tiny to belong to any adult... but too perfect to be an accident.

She slammed the door and locked it tight, her heart pounding. All night long, she couldn't sleep, and she

never found out who—or what—left that handprint.

"Believe nothing you hear, and only one half that you see."
— Edgar Allan Poe

Now it's your turn!

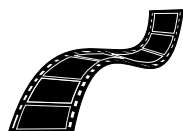
Write your own spooky story using the Halloween words we've learned. Let your imagination run wild! The best story will win a special prize, and we'll feature it on our website!

Send your story to yorkstonschool@gmail.com by the end of October for a chance to win!



Halloween Activities

This October, let's get into the Halloween spirit with some fun, spooky activities to help improve your English. Whether you love watching films, reading books, or practicing conversation, we've got you covered!

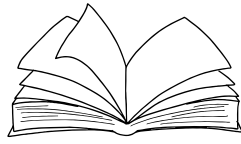


1. Watch a Halloween Movie in English

Watching films in English is a great way to improve your listening skills and pick up new vocabulary! Here are some Halloween classics:

- **Hocus Pocus** (1993): This family-friendly Halloween movie follows three witches who return to life on Halloween night. It's full of humor, magic, and a lot of Halloween fun!
- **The Nightmare Before Christmas** (1993): A beautifully animated film that mixes Halloween and Christmas. It's a great way to enjoy the spooky season with catchy songs and a unique story.
- **Coraline** (2009): A creepy, animated tale of a girl who discovers a secret world behind a hidden door in her house. The perfect mix of spooky and adventurous!

Activity Tip: Watch with English subtitles to follow the dialogue more easily, or turn off subtitles for a listening challenge.



2. Read a Spooky Book

Reading in English helps to expand your vocabulary, improve comprehension, and immerse yourself in the language. Here are two classic Halloween-themed books:

- **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** by Washington Irving: This short story follows Ichabod Crane, a schoolteacher, who encounters the terrifying Headless Horseman. It's a classic American tale perfect for Halloween!

- **The Canterville Ghost** by Oscar Wilde: A humorous yet spooky story about an American family who moves into an English mansion haunted by a centuries-old ghost. It's a mix of funny and eerie, great for readers of all levels.

Activity Tip: As you read, write down any new words or phrases and try to use them in sentences of your own.



3. Halloween-Themed Conversation Practice

Get together with friends or classmates and practice speaking in English while discussing Halloween topics. Here are some fun questions to get you started:

- What's your favourite Halloween costume, and why?
- Do you believe in ghosts or superstitions? Why or why not?
- If you could visit a haunted house, would you do it? What do you think you would see?

Activity Tip: Set a timer for 10 minutes and see how long you can keep the conversation going, using only English!



Fun Halloween Quiz

Let's see how much you know about Halloween! Test your knowledge with these spooky questions, and learn some fun facts along the way. Don't peek at the answers too soon—they'll be waiting for you at the end of the newsletter!

1. Multiple Choice: Halloween Traditions

1. What vegetable is most commonly carved to make a jack-o'-lantern?
 - A) Turnip
 - B) Pumpkin
 - C) Potato
 - D) Cabbage
2. What phrase do children shout when they knock on doors for candy?
 - A) Trick or treat
 - B) Boo!
 - C) Happy Halloween
 - D) Give me candy!
3. Which of these is considered a symbol of bad luck on Halloween?
 - A) Black cat
 - B) Pumpkin
 - C) Full moon
 - D) Witch hat

2. True or False: Halloween Facts

1. Halloween is celebrated on October 30th.
2. The tradition of wearing costumes on Halloween started as a way to disguise oneself from ghosts.
3. The word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve," which refers to the night before All Saints' Day.

3. Fill in the Blanks: Spooky Words

1. Children go from house to house saying " _____ " in hopes of receiving candy.
2. People carve scary faces into _____ and place candles inside.
3. That old house is said to be _____ by ghosts.

4. Short Answer: Halloween Around the World

How is Halloween celebrated in different countries? Write a short description or research the traditions from one other country!

The answers can be found at the back of the newsletter—don't forget to check after trying them out!

Did you know?

In the UK and Ireland, pumpkins weren't always used for carving jack-o'-lanterns. The tradition originally involved turnips or potatoes! When immigrants from these countries brought the custom to the United States, they found that pumpkins—native to America—were much easier to carve, and that's how pumpkins became the Halloween carving tradition we know today.

Coming Soon: Audio Courses to Boost Your Learning!

Exciting news! In addition to our regular classes, we'll soon be offering **audio courses** to help you practice English on the go. Whether you're commuting, taking a walk, or relaxing at home, these audio lessons will be a perfect way to combine with your classes and enhance your learning experience.

Stay tuned—more information will be coming soon!



Thank you for being part of our learning community! We hope you enjoy this spooky season and take advantage of all the fun ways to improve your English. Remember to stay tuned for more information about our upcoming audio courses, and don't forget to participate in the Halloween story contest for a chance to win a prize!

Happy Halloween,

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Answers to the Halloween Quiz

1. Multiple Choice:

1. **B) Pumpkin**
2. **A) Trick or treat**

3. **A) Black cat**

2. True or False:

1. **False** – Halloween is celebrated on October 31st.
2. **True** – People wore costumes to confuse ghosts.
3. **True** – "All Hallows' Eve" is the origin of the word "Halloween."

3. Fill in the Blanks:

1. **Trick or treat**
2. **Pumpkins**
3. **Haunted**