

15. Halloween

Part 2, Unit 3, Step 7

Before watching

1 Write down what you like/dislike about the following festivities. Which do you celebrate the most? Compare your opinions with a partner.

1. Christmas:
.....
2. Your birthday:
.....
3. Easter:
.....
4. Halloween:
.....

2 Which of the words in the list would you not usually associate with Halloween?

• ghosts • witches • skeletons •
bats • pumpkins • reindeer •
snowman • monsters

3 Discuss with a partner what you already know about Halloween, for example when it is celebrated and how, what the origins of the festivity are and so on.

While watching

4 Watch from 00:00 to 01:29 and listen to the following people describing festivals and celebrations. Tick the festivities they mention.

| | Woman 1 | Woman 2 | Woman 3 | Woman 4 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Christmas | | | | |
| 2. Easter | | | | |
| 3. New Year | | | | |
| 4. Halloween | | | | |
| 5. Birthday | | | | |

5 Now watch again and complete the sentences with the missing information.

1. The first speaker's favourite festivity is
.....
2. The second speaker likes her birthday best because it is all about
.....
3. The third speaker celebrates
..... but not
4. The fourth speaker goes away at Christmas and Easter because it's too but she loves
5. Halloween is celebrated by students at University
6. You can find and spooky decorations in front of US houses during Halloween.

6 Watch the TV programme from 01:30 to 02:15 and put these events in the right order.

- ☐ a. The father tells his son he looks "scary".
- ☐ b. The mother comes downstairs.
- ☐ c. The boy is looking for something in the closet.
- ☐ d. The father arrives and asks if it's a dog in the closet.
- ☐ e. The mother tells her son to take the costume off.

7 Watch the video from 02:16-02:55 and decide if the following are True (T) or False (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Halloween is a contracted form of "All Hallows' Evening". | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. It is linked to the celebration of All Saints on the 1 st of November. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The pumpkin tradition comes from Scottish mythology. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Pumpkins can be of all shapes and sizes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8 Watch from 02:56 to the end and answer the following question.

What does the man give the two children?

- ☐ a. Lollipops
- ☐ b. A bar of chocolate
- ☐ c. Biscuits
- ☐ d. Some money

9 Watch the last part of the video again (from 02:56 to the end) and fill in the gaps in the conversation.

Father: Just a (1) wow,
what have we here?
Children: Trick or (2)?
Father: Oooh, you like a couple of desperate
(3) I'm afraid I'll
have to give in. I just happen to have
a (4) of lollipops
here. OK (5) you
are, happy Halloween!
Children: Happy Halloween!
Boy: Hey, wait for me!

After watching

10 Describe your experience of Halloween and tell your classmates what you like (or don't like) about it.

11 Research a specific local festival that is celebrated in Italy or elsewhere using online resources. Write a short description of the festival and why you like it.

12 Go to www.history.com/topics/halloween and find out more facts about Halloween. Working in groups of three, collect up as much information as possible and prepare a short quiz for members of another team and then exchange quizzes.