



Festivals

Task 2: The History of Halloween

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening for the ISE 1, listening task 2.

You are going to hear a short talk about **the history of Halloween**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once

Now tell me in a few words what the talk was about.

Give the candidate some blank paper

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about **the history of Halloween**. Are you ready?

Now tell six pieces of information about **the history of Halloween**.

Now let's go over the potential questions. Remember, the examiner can ask you up to 4 additional questions after you say the six pieces of information that you heard.

This is the end of listening task 2.

Audio Script

You **might [Modal verb: might]** realize that Halloween is an interesting mixture of occult traditions, culture and religion. It has existed for centuries. The Celts celebrated Halloween first, over 2,000 years ago, with October 31st being the day that the Celt celebrated **because of [Connector]** the end of the harvest season. The Celts thought the ghost of the dead walked the earth **because [Connector]** the separation of the dead and living was at its thinnest then. This **must [modal verb: must]** be why this was the night that ended and started the Celtic New Year. Later, in the 7th century the Catholic religion converted November 1st into All Saints Day **in order to [Infinitive of Purpose]** make pagan holiday into a religious holiday. The holiday was known as Hallowmas, which means mass of the saints. So, this made October 31st, the night before, All Hallow's Eve, which **has become [Present Perfect]** known these days as Halloween. The pagan and catholic holiday **were having [Past continuous]** in common that they both had to do with the afterlife. In the 1840s, many Irish immigrants migrated to America during the potato famine, bringing their Halloween traditions, like bobbing for apples and playing tricks. **If you like Halloween, you know [Zero Conditional]** that sometimes people play tricks. One trick was to remove the gate from the front of people's houses and the ones that did it needed to **[Semi-modal verb: need to]** wear

a mask to not get caught. So, **if you go on Halloween, you will probably say [first conditional / will for future use and possibilities]** trick or treat as a greeting. In the 1930s, young people

were encouraged to go from house to house to ask for candy instead of playing tricks on that person. **Many [Adverbs of Quantity]** neighbours and store keepers would **prefer to [Preferences]** give treats so that they wouldn't **have to [Semi-modal verb: have to]** have their house trashed.

Answers & Questions

1	occult traditions / cultural / religion	What mixture does Halloween have?
2	the Celts	Who were the first to celebrate Halloween?
3	the ghost of the dead walked the earth / separation of dead and living at its thinnest	What did the Celts think?
4	7th century	When did the Catholic religion convert All Saints Day into a religious holiday on November 1st?
5	All Hallow's Eve	What did Halloween used to be called?
6	Afterlife	What did the pagan and religious holiday have in common?
7	Irish immigrants	Who brought Halloween traditions to America?
8	Bobbing for apples	What activity did people bring from Ireland?
9	remove the gate (from the front of people's house)	What tricks did people used to do?
10	(in the) 1930s	When did people start to say "trick or treat"?

Marks: +_ / +10

Activity 2: Reading

Find grammar in the audio script and highlight it, writing behind the grammar: For example:

You must know that... = You **must [modal verb: must]** know that

Grammar list:

- Present Perfect
- Because
- Because of
- Will for future use: will probably // will surely // will likely
- Adverbial quantities: a lot // much // many
- Expressions of preferences: I prefer // I would rather // I'd rather
- Zero Conditional
- First Conditional
- Past Continuous
- Modal verb: must
- Modal verb: Might
- Semi-modal verb: have to
- Semi-modal verb: need to
- Infinitive of Purpose: in order to // so as to

Once you have found all the grammar, write down some vocabulary and ideas in the audioscript.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Activity 3: Writing

Write an essay for your school paper (100 to 130 words) about a festivity where people wear costume:

- >> Say the name and when is the festivity
- >> Explain what activities people do during this festivity
- >> Tell what is special about this festivity, for example like food or music

Plan your writing with the grammar, writing format, and ideas from the writing prompt before starting.

Remind students to:

- Use grammar, as done in the listening audio script.
- Follow the writing format.
- Use specific vocabulary.
- Answer completely the writing prompt.
- Make sure not to write less than 100 words and more than 130 words.



Activity 4: Speaking

Now, think about having a two minute conversation about: What are/were the school rules for your school? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

1. Yes, I wear a costume and go to a party with my friends. / No, I don't, but I think it could be fun.
2. I buy my costumes at a store. / I make my own costume.
3. You can wear costumes in Spain, at Carnival or at New Year's.
4. You can spend time with friends and family, eat good food and listening to music.
5. I would like to dress as a Pirate because I think they are cool.
6. Yes I do, because they are a lot of fun. / No, I don't because I think they are silly.

What questions can you ask?

1. Do you celebrate Halloween?
2. When you wear a costume, where do you get it?
3. What other festivities can you wear costumes in your country?
4. What other things do you do at these festivities?
5. What costume would you like to wear next?
6. Do you like to wear costumes?