



National Environmental Concerns

Task: Being Environmentally Friendly During Halloween

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the ISE 2.

You are going to hear a talk about **the effects on the environment during Halloween**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Most people love Halloween because it has become a rather fun holiday to celebrate. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, single or married, with children or without, there is always something available for everybody. However, just because we used to and still have a good time during Halloween, doesn't mean that we should be aware of our part in keeping a good environment.

So to continue, it isn't at all surprising that many young people during Halloween enjoy the candy and sweets they get from going trick-or-treating. However, we must consider that not only an excess of sweets isn't good for the body, but also all those candy wrappers, which many are just tossed to the ground, converting to litter. There is also the problem of playing pranks, For example, throwing eggs against cars and houses or streaming toilet paper on the trees of neighbours' houses. Many of these neighbours commented how annoying this is for them and how they have to clean up after these tedious pranks afterwards. However, that isn't even half of it. I mean what a huge waste it is destroying the food source for all those eggs and to think of the trees that were sacrificed in order for people to have toilet paper. Furthermore, some people don't think how their Halloween costumes can affect the environment. For example, when using face paints, there are many cosmetics that are not regulated. On the one hand the trick-or-treater can be harmed by applying these face paints to their body, but on the other hand when the tubes and containers are thrown away it is very possible that we are contaminating the environment with toxic paints. Something else to consider is that buying costumes, although fun, can be costly, but apart from that they often come in plastic packaging that ends up going to the garbage, contributing to the environmental problem with plastic. Last but not least, there is the issue that Halloween is a sales peak for some countries and this causes a lot of printed publicity. This can become litter and a lot of it isn't even recycled to reuse paper.

So, you may be asking, how could Halloween be more environmentally-friendly? It is a great question! For example, decorating with recyclable items. Instead of buying a plastic and premade tombstone, what about getting some cardboard boxes and making one instead. Another great decoration that you can use in other ways are pumpkins. You can carve them into Jack-o-lanterns and use the inside to make pumpkin pies, amongst other recipes. It is a great way to make something you would have otherwise thrown away into a fantastic decoration, and not only that, it is a Halloween classic! Moreover, Halloween is a wonderful



time to be creative and think outside of the box. Many families have been doing this for decades when creating halloween costumes. Making your own costume is budget-friendly and since lots of costumes are made with plastic and vinyl, you would be avoiding this too. Another aspect is to make healthy snacks as treats for the trick-or-treaters. For example, an all-time-favourite for Halloween is candy apples. One more final thought is when going trick-or-treating, think about using a pillowcase to collect candy instead of a plastic bag, to reduce throwing away more plastic that will end up in landfills, which is not good for the environment at all. This way the pillowcase can be washed and reused, with no additional harm done to the environment. I am sure that if people had realized how easy it is to do some of these things when Halloween comes around, they would have been more mindful of the environment due to their actions.

In a nutshell, despite everything we can buy and do during Halloween, it mustn't be ignored that people had bought many things that contributed to harming the environment in past Halloweens. Notwithstanding, it isn't too late to alter these halloween practices and if I were you, I would put them into effect this next Halloween!

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me **which problems can be caused environmentally by Halloween and what can be done to not harm the environment.**

Now tell me **which problems can be caused environmentally by Halloween and what can be done to not harm the environment.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Problems caused environmentally with Halloween	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● candy wrappers become litter ● pranks of throwing eggs and streaming toilet paper; destroying food sources and sacrificing trees. ● face paints can harm people and contaminate the environments with toxic paints ● when buying costumes can be expensive and plastic packaging contributes to the environmental problem with plastic ● printed publicity becomes litter and isn't recycled
What can be done not to harm the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● use recyclable items to decorate



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● carve Jack-o-lanterns and use the inside to make recipes, like pumpkin pies● think outside of the box and make homemade costumes; avoiding plastic and vinyl in costumes● make healthy snacks for trick-or-treaters; candy apples● use pillow cases instead of plastic bags that end up in landfills; not good for the environment; pillow cases can be reused
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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:

- Second conditional
- Simple passive
- Used to
- Relative clauses
- Modal verb: Must
- Modal verb: Should / Ought to
- Modal verb: May / Might
- Third conditional
- Present perfect continuous
- Past Perfect Simple
- Reported speech / Reported Verb
- Linking expressions: Although
- Linking expressions: In spite of / despite all
- Cohesive devices: So to continue,

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 a report for your teacher (150 to 180 words) about environmental issues that holidays cause, mentioning the problems and possible solutions.

- >> Explain what are some of the environmental issues that exist
- >> Say what are some of the causes
- >> Suggest some possible solutions

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



Activity 4: Speaking

Now, think about having a two minute conversation about: What is the environmental issue that can be caused by festivities, why does it happen and what can be done to remedy this problem? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What questions can you ask?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.