



## International Events

### Task: Halloween, An International Holiday

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the ISE III.

You are going to hear a talk about **how Halloween is celebrated internationally**. 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

Halloween is a rather special festivity that is celebrated in a variety of countries, but why has it become **quite** appealing to countries around the world? What once used to be a Celtic festival, is slowly taking over the world.

**Firstly**, if we were to look at France, back in 1997, we would see that there was a down time in sales before the Christmas season started. Therefore, this was a marketing strategy that **made a move** that was aimed to increase sales. Halloween had never really taken off in many European countries before, despite the fact that it **certainly** had European roots from the Irish and British, which had migrated this tradition with many immigrants who settled in the United States, converting it also into an American holiday. Thanks to globalization and the power of advertisement, this **must have opened** up a whole new line of marketing that **is alleged** to be bringing the discovery of American holidays onto other societies that have not completely embraced them, such as that of France with Halloween. Interestingly enough, not all countries have embraced Halloween purely in the western tradition. For example, **if you had gone to Shanghai, in China, it would be quite common to see many people wearing costumes**. Notwithstanding, it would be odd to see houses decorated and children going trick-or-treating. Instead, you would find many young adults going to bars and pubs for parties in their costumes, where they **basically** judge each others costume, drink and have a good time with friends. It has encouraged sales in the Shanghai nightlife. The other halloween traditions that are so present in the western culture, are children, candy, decorations, spooks and horror, has completely passed Shanghai by at the moment, as they haven't really culturally connected with those aspects just yet. On the flipside, there is also Indonesia, that has fully taken in all these different western cultural elements that the United States celebrates during Halloween. Although, for those that love to observe cultures and social influences, it would be compelling to see how local myths and legends have been included. An example would be that of a wandering spirit woman, who is called Kuntilana, who supposedly died during childbirth. For these reasons, globalization has been given the acknowledgement for having the responsibility of bringing together folklore, local myths and advertisement. This has **absolutely** added to the already heated argument if globalization is overall positive or negative in reference to its modifications on culture.

One fear, that many **can't stand to see** happen, is that cultures and values of the country in question, is **completely** being mixed or even replaced with western ones. Also, something else that has **totally** become a concern is that students and children **should have been** told



about the origins of the legends and tradition, rather it be from their country or abroad, so that they can have the most complete experience possible and are able to think critically about it. However, on the contrary, holidays, like Halloween, just seem to be taken over by marketing and publicity, giving often a more waterdown version of the holiday.

Finally, considering all of this, do you think it might be right or wrong to bring foreign holidays to places that have never celebrated them before? Well, I may be wrong but any time the world can be more connected and see eye to eye, it has to be a good thing. That being said, it is still important to maintain the cultural identity of a country and it's tradition and not turn a blind eye to one's own heritage, and an effort should be placed in not letting globalization take that away just to replace it with other traditions, instead of it just being something extra. We can only hope that in time globalization will be shown to be a great thing when all is said and done.

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 about the point of view of the speaker, the reasons that Halloween has spread internationally and the concerns about the influences of globalization with holidays.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the reasons that Halloween has spread internationally and the concerns about the influences of globalization with holidays. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be more connected is a good thing; important to maintain the cultural identity of a country and it's tradition, not letting globalization take that away</li></ul>
Reasons that Halloween has spread internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1997 France had a marketing strategy to increase sales with Halloween during the pre-christmas season, in a downtime of sales</li><li>• Irish and British immigrants took Halloween to the United States</li><li>• Globalization and the power of advertisement is opening up a new line of marketing to other societies</li><li>• Shanghai, China, wear costumes and go partying in bars and clubs, but don't understand completely what Halloween is about</li><li>• Indonesia has embraced Halloween but has added it's own local myths and legends to it</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Globalization responsible for bringing together folklore, local myths and advertisement</li></ul>
Concerns about the influence of globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cultures and values of the country mixed or replaced with western ones</li><li>● Students and children should be told about the origins of the legends and tradition, more experience, able to think critically about it</li><li>● Taken over by marketing and publicity, waterdown version of the holiday.</li></ul>

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:

- Mixed Conditionals
- Modal with Passives
- Should / Might / Could / Must + have and Perfect Infinitive
- Wish / Hope / If Only
- Verbs followed gerund or / and infinitive
- Idioms and Expressions
- The Passive
- Tentative Expressions
- Intensifiers and Modifiers
- Signposting Words

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

1. marketing strategy {vocabulary}
2. globalization {vocabulary}
3. nightlife {vocabulary}
4. responsibilities {vocabulary}
5. think critically {vocabulary}
6. in 1997 Halloween was a new holiday in France, encouraged through marketing {idea}
7. Halloween taken to the United States by Irish and British immigrants {idea}
8. in Shanghai, more for party and adults than for children {idea}
9. Indonesia mixed local myths and legends with western traditions in Halloween {idea}
10. important to maintain cultural identity of a country {idea}



### Activity 3: Writing

Write an article for your teacher (200 to 230 words) about how globalization is influencing your country with outside holidays.

Remind students to:

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

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: How is Halloween celebrated where you live or other holidays with costumes? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

1. Yes, I watch scary movies with my friends and wear a costume.
2. Yes, I wear a costume almost every year because I believe it is quite a lot of fun.
3. People don't decorate their houses as much in Spain, compared to other countries, like the United States.
4. I don't like when people throw eggs on cars, because I think it can be dangerous.
5. Yes, some franchised supermarkets put on commercials about candies that they sell for Halloween in T.V.
6. I think Christmas has had influences from foreign holidays, because even though in Spain they celebrate Christmas, in the past they celebrated only Three Kings Day, and not celebrated with Santa Claus.

What questions can you ask?

1. Do you celebrate Halloween in any way?
2. Have you ever worn a costume for Halloween?
3. How do you think Halloween is different in your country when compared to other countries like the United States?
4. Is there anything you don't like about Halloween?
5. Do you remember seeing any Halloween advertisements or commercials about Halloween?
6. Can you think of any other foreign holidays in your country?