

HALLOWEEN IS COMING

Oct 23rd, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What horror movies can you think of? Which ones have you seen?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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| 1. Annual | a) happening now |
| 2. Underway | b) not allowed, inappropriate |
| 3. Festive | c) to make a pattern by cutting away parts of something |
| 4. Carve | d) connect |
| 5. Trick-or-treating | e) happening once every year |
| 6. Running | f) going door to door in costume and saying, 'trick or treat,' as a way of asking for sweets |
| 7. Off-limits | g) the thoughts, beliefs, and feelings of a group of people |
| 8. Consciousness | h) making something seem more important or better |
| 9. Associate | i) one after another, in a row |
| 10. Glorification | j) cheerful, people who enjoy celebrating |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Halloween - the annual _____ of all things scary - is approaching. At the cinema, new horror movies have opened, including *Halloween Ends*. It is the latest in a series of scary movies that began with 1978's horror _____, *Halloween*.

Preparations for the big night are also underway. Festive people have been looking for the perfect pumpkin to carve into a jack-o'-lantern. Carved _____ do not last long, so it is best to carve them in the few days immediately before October 31st.

The other major traditions are dressing up in costume, and for children, wearing that costume while trick-or-treating. According to _____, the most popular costume-related searches are a mix of classic ideas and popular culture. This year's top-ten searches include *Stranger Things* and *Spiderman*. Classic _____ that people are looking for include *fairy* and *pirate*, with the top search for the second-year running being *witch*.

While costumes range from cute or funny to genuinely _____, some concepts are still off-limits. Online sales site eBay banned the sale of costumes related to the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Dahmer killed seventeen people between 1978 and 1991 and has recently re-entered the public consciousness through a Netflix show. The _____ was popular, but eBay does not want to be associated with recent crime or the glorification of violence.

WORD FORMS: Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an *x*, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
x	annual		x
carve		x	
	x	x	trick-or-treating
x			consciousness
			glorification

FULL STORY:

Halloween - the annual celebration of all things scary - is approaching. At the cinema, new horror movies have opened, including *Halloween Ends*. It is the latest in a series of scary movies that began with 1978's horror classic, *Halloween*.

Preparations for the big night are also underway. Festive people have been looking for the perfect pumpkin to carve into a jack-o'-lantern. Carved pumpkins do not last long, so it is best to carve them in the few days immediately before October 31st.

The other major traditions are dressing up in costume, and for children, wearing that costume while trick-or-treating. According to Google, the most popular costume-related searches are a mix of classic ideas and popular culture. This year's top-ten searches include *Stranger Things* and

Spiderman. Classic costumes that people are looking for include *fairy* and *pirate*, with the top search for the second-year running being *witch*.

While costumes range from cute or funny to genuinely scary, some concepts are still off-limits. Online sales site eBay banned the sale of costumes related to the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Dahmer killed seventeen people between 1978 and 1991 and has recently re-entered the public consciousness through a Netflix show. The show was popular, but eBay does not want to be associated with recent crime or the glorification of violence.

Sources: usatoday.com, frightgeist.withgoogle.com, buzzfeednews.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. The movie *Halloween* was released in 1978. (T / F)
2. People like to dress up as children on Halloween. (T / F)
3. *Witch* is the most searched for Halloween costume. (T / F)
4. eBay has made people think about a serial killer. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. movies / are / some / near / horror / halloween / released
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2. preparing / people / now / are / for / halloween
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. Is Halloween or something similar celebrated in your country? How important is it?
3. Do you like horror movies? Why or why not?
4. Why do people like to watch scary movies, tell scary stories, and sometimes scare their friends?
5. Have you carved a jack-o'-lantern? Was it difficult? If not, would you like to try carving one?
6. Why is *witch* such a popular costume?
7. If you were going to a costume party or Halloween party, what would you dress up as?

8. What treats do you like? What treats are popular with children these days?
9. Do you agree with eBay's decision to not allow sales of costumes related to Jeffrey Dahmer? Why is it okay to dress as a zombie but not okay to dress as a serial killer?
10. The celebration of Halloween is traditional. Do you like traditions? Are there any traditions that you don't like?

WRITING: Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-e, 2-a, 3-j, 4-c, 5-f, 6-i, 7-b, 8-g, 9-d, 10-h

WORD FORMS: annually, carved, carving, to go trick-or-treating, conscious, consciously, glorify, glorious/glorified, gloriously

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F

COMPLETE: 1. Some horror movies are released near Halloween. 2. People are preparing for Halloween now.