



# THE DARK SIDE OF HALLOWEEN



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
12TK-B6C8-MD7T

## 1 Warm-up

Do you like Halloween? Why/why not?

## 2 Key words

Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1. devour     | a. artificial (relating to body parts)                         |
| 2. a ton      | b. a small area that is different from what is around it       |
| 3. a prank    | c. a trick that is supposed to be funny but doesn't cause harm |
| 4. horrendous | d. a very large amount   |
| 5. prosthetic | e. extremely unpleasant  |
| 6. a patch    | f. good enough for a particular purpose                        |
| 7. adequate   | g. not completely certain about something or someone           |
| 8. wary       | h. to eat all of something quickly                             |

## 3 Reading

You are going to read an article about the dangers of Halloween. Match the headings with the paragraphs in the article on the next page.

- |                   |                       |                                  |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cleaning up       | Commercialization     | Terrifying television            | Overdosing on sugar |
| Scary experiences | Cosmetic catastrophes | Risks to our four-legged friends |                     |
| Fancy dress fears | Hidden dangers        | Vandalism                        |                     |



## The dark side of Halloween

1. It's Halloween again. Are you looking forward to dressing-up and eating your body weight in sweets or are you shaking behind the sofa? If it's the latter, prepare to be even more scared when you've finished reading about the dangers and downsides of Halloween.

2. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>

Everything about Halloween can be truly terrifying for young children, and even the most fearless adults can be scared by realistic decorations. Psychologists advise parents to watch their children closely during Halloween, and to remind them of what is real and what isn't.

3. **Overdosing on sugar**

The average young trick-or-treater will consume about 3 cups of sugar on Halloween, and devour around 7,000 calories, which is the equivalent to 13 Big Macs. As a grown-up, you're also just as likely to consume too much sugar, as it's very tempting to steal sweets from kids and snack on treats people bring to the office.

4. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>

In the past few decades, the Halloween industry has grown dramatically. Temporary Halloween stores have opened up. Bars, nightclubs, and restaurants have theme nights, and people even send Halloween cards. Then there is the pressure to buy costumes, decorate your house, and buy a ton of sweets for trick-or-treaters.

5. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>

Children can trip over their Halloween costumes and some are flammable. Masks can obstruct people's vision. Children should also be careful about what they accept from strangers. In 1964, a woman gave dog biscuits and ant poison to a group of teenagers she thought were too old for trick-or-treating. However, the biggest Halloween danger is car accidents. At night, it's difficult for drivers to see people wearing dark clothes.

6. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>

Halloween can unleash violent behavior in people. Children get hyped up on sugar and adults get drunk,

so property gets damaged easily. Cars, homes, and mailboxes are often targeted on Halloween, but people have also stolen things like kitchen utensils. In some states in the U.S., ringing the doorbell and running away is a criminal offense.

7. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>

On Halloween in the U.S., people throw eggs at houses, which splatter on impact. The mess this creates is horrendous to get rid of. Toilet paper in trees and silly string are also common Halloween pranks which take a lot of time to take down. In California, you can be fined \$1,000 dollars for using silly string.

8. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>

Zombie face paint, fake blood, and prosthetic skin can all cause skin irritation, inflammation, and allergic reactions. Test any make-up you plan to wear on a small patch of your skin first. Colored contact lenses have also become popular but experts say that it's wise to wear only prescription lenses.

9. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>

It seems it's not acceptable to leave the house on Halloween dressed as yourself. Some people start thinking about their costume months in advance, to avoid the stress of trying to put together an adequate outfit at the last minute. Then there's the pressure of trying to top the costume you wore last year.

10. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>

If you hate horror movies, then Halloween isn't a good time for you. Scary movies take over our screens and there are countless previews for these in cinemas. A lot of these films are also deliberately terrible. Many horror fans truly want to see a movie 'so bad it's good.'

11. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>

Halloween can also be frightening for pets. Owners should also be wary that they're not eating any sweets or chocolate that are lying around the house. Many Halloween costumes also have plastic accessories which a dog might want to chew on and possibly swallow, so these should be kept away from animals.



## 4 Find the words

Find the words and phrases in the text which mean....

1. the second of a group of two things mentioned before (**singular noun, P.1**): \_\_\_\_\_
2. something that has the same value as something else (**singular noun, P.3**): \_\_\_\_\_
3. likely to burn easily (**adj., P.5**): \_\_\_\_\_
4. block your ability to see (**phrase, P.5**): \_\_\_\_\_
5. do something that has a harmful effect (**verb, P.6**): \_\_\_\_\_
6. break apart and cover a surface with a liquid (**verb, P.7**): \_\_\_\_\_
7. very many, especially more than you think is acceptable (**adj., P.10**): \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Verb + preposition

Choose the correct word to complete the phrases below.

around      away      down      on      over      together      up

1. The children were so **hyped** \_\_\_\_\_ about going to the zoo they didn't eat their breakfast.
2. Be careful! You're going to **trip** \_\_\_\_\_ your shoelaces.
3. Don't leave your glasses **lying** \_\_\_\_\_. Put them somewhere safe.
4. I don't have much food in the fridge, but I'm sure I can **put** a meal \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I think we need to **take** that poster \_\_\_\_\_. It's really offensive.
6. You can **snack** \_\_\_\_\_ some nuts before dinner. They are better for you than crisps.
7. **Keep** anything that is flammable \_\_\_\_\_ from the fire.

## 6 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Have you experienced any of the things mentioned in the article? Which one(s)?
2. Do you feel any pressure to celebrate Halloween? Why/why not?
3. Do you think that Halloween has become too commercial? Why/why not?

## 7 Homework

Write a short piece and give your opinion about Halloween.



# Key

## 1. Warm-up

Encourage a short discussion.

## 2. Key words

Students can work individually and then check in pairs.

1. h      2. d      3. c      4. e      5. a      6. b      7. f      8. g

## 3. Reading

Students can work in pairs and then check with the teacher.

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Scary experiences                | 2. Commercialization     |
| 3. Hidden dangers                   | 4. Vandalism             |
| 5. Cleaning up                      | 6. Cosmetic catastrophes |
| 7. Fancy dress fears                | 8. Terrifying TV         |
| 9. Risks to our four-legged friends |                          |

## 4. Find the words

- |               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. the latter | 2. the equivalent            |
| 3. flammable  | 4. obstruct someone's vision |
| 5. unleash    | 6. splatter                  |
| 7. countless  |                              |

## 5. Verb + preposition

1. up      2. over      3. around      4. together      5. down      6. on      7. away

## 6. Talking point

Monitor the activity. Make a note of any typical errors and useful language.

## 7. Homework

Encourage the students to use interesting vocabulary in their writing, along with words and phrases from the worksheet.