



Halloween – Vocabulary

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Introduction

It's Halloween, so we're going to look at ten words or phrases you can use at this time.

Vocabulary

See if you know which words I'm describing. After each one, you'll hear the answer, which you should then repeat.

If I jump out from behind a door and shout *boo!* What do I do to you?

Well, there are a few words or expressions.

I give you a fright

to give someone a fright to give someone a fright

I scare you

to scare someone You scared me!

We can also use scared in a different way. I can be scared *of something*.

to be scared of something

What are you scared of? I'm scared of spiders.

What's another word for scared?

frightened

And we can use this word in the same two ways.

You frightened me. I'm frightened of spiders.

What's a word for very, very scared or frightened?

terrified

Again, we can use it in the same two ways.

That movie terrified me. I'm terrified of the dark.



Now for some Halloween nouns. There are a few things we see at Halloween. What do you call all the bones of the body together, without any skin or flesh?

a skeleton

a skeleton He dressed as a skeleton.

If he dressed as a skeleton, we can say he was wearing a skeleton...

costume

a costume What kind of costume are you going to wear?

Your costume could be of something that goes whoooo... whooo. What is this scary thing?

a ghost

a ghost Do you believe in ghosts?

And if there is a ghost at a house, we would say the house is...

haunted

haunted a haunted house

There's an animal we often think of when we think of Halloween. It's small and it flies at night.

a bat

a bat a bat

Another thing that's like a symbol of Halloween is an orange kind of vegetable. You take out the insides and put a candle in it.

a pumpkin

a pumpkin a pumpkin



And our last word is one that means a bit strange and a bit scary. If we went to a house that people said was haunted, we might say, *Oh I don't like it here, it's a bit...*

spooky

spooky spooky

Vocabulary and Listening

Now listen to a conversation about Halloween. Which of those words do you hear?

KATIE: Well it's October, and it's nearly Halloween. But we're not sitting anywhere very spooky at the moment, we're sitting on Thomas's balcony, but in England...erm...definitely, it'll be dark and wet and cold. Which is more suitable for, talking about spooky, scary Halloween. So...

TOM: Mmm hmm.

KATIE: Thomas. Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever been anywhere that was haunted?

TOM: Well...when I'm being rational, I...don't think I, believe in ghosts, but...when I'm in a spooky, frightening location...then that all changes and I think there was one...I went somewhere in Cambodia when I was travelling, I went to a...old derelict hotel at the top of a mountain and spent the night there, with a group of people, and it was very very spooky and I, was sure I was going to see a ghost.

KATIE: Ooooo.

TOM: (laughter)...As a child, did you ever wear Halloween costumes? And did you ever dress up as a ghost or a skeleton or anything like that?

KATIE: Not as a child, but I did as an adult. (laughter) Erm...I used to have er...Halloween parties every year where everyone would come in...crazy scary costumes, so I was a witch and I had a...a friend who came as Dracula I think...erm we used to put skeletons and spiders and bats and pumpkins all around the house, and erm...get very drunk and tell ghost stories.

TOM: Hmm.

KATIE: You?

TOM: I think, when I was very young, we used to do the...*trick or treat* thing in England, where you knock on people's doors and you er...you dress up as ghosts with a...with a white sheet...and ask for sweets or something, but I can't remember doing it for a long time...



KATIE: Yeah.

TOM: ...actually. It's good fun.

KATIE: So Halloween is...I mean it's quite a lot of fun, but it's also supposed to be about what you're...frightened of, so what are you frightened of?

TOM: Wasps. (laughter)

KATIE: And, and for me it's cockroaches, so...

TOM: Yeah, I'm absolutely terrified of er, of wasps and flying stinging insects, they...horrrify me.

KATIE: Yeah I'm scared of, I'm scared of cockroaches so...no ghosts, no ghouls, no Draculas just insects over here we're scared of.

TOM: Yeah.

TOM + KATIE: Thanks for listening and...*Happy Halloween!*

