

Listening (script)

You will hear a presentation about the dark side of Halloween.

You will hear the text twice.

For questions 1-5, complete the sentences below. Write no more than two words and/or number for each answer.

For questions 6-8, choose THREE letters, A-G, and write them next to questions 6-8 in any order.

For questions 9 and 10 Choose TWO letters, A-E, and write them next to questions 9 and 10 in either order.

First, you have some time to look at Questions 1-10.

Pause 1 minute

Now listen carefully and answer the questions.

The dark side of Halloween – parts of Halloween that we don't talk about
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?

Scary experiences

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.

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.

Commercialisation

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.

Hidden dangers

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.

Vandalism

Halloween can unleash violent behaviour in people. Children get hyped up on sugar and adults get drunk, so property gets easily damaged. Cars, homes and mailboxes are often targeted on Halloween, but people have also stolen things like kitchen utensils. In some states in the US, ringing the doorbell and running away is a criminal offence.

Cleaning up

On Halloween in the US, 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 \$1000 dollars for using silly string.

Cosmetic catastrophes

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. Coloured contact lenses have also become popular but experts say that it's wise to wear only prescription lenses.

Fancy dress fears

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.

Terrifying TV

If you hate horror films, then Halloween isn't a goodtime 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.'

Risks to our four-legged friends

Halloween can also be frightening for pets. Owners should 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.

Pause 10 sec.

Now listen to the text again.

Text repeated.

Now you have 2 minutes to complete the task and write down your answers on the answer sheet.

Pause 2 min.

This is the end of the listening task.