

## The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/11/17

### Halloween v The Day of the Dead - in Europe, Mexico and beyond

While Halloween is celebrated on the evening of October 31, the Day of the Dead is commemorated on October 31, November 1 and 2.

Halloween sees people dress up as witches and skeletons. There are bats and black cats. Folk like to party. The night is popular in the USA and the UK. The event has spread itself around the world.

One day later, Catholics in Continental Europe, Central Europe, the Philippines, and in Mexico, like to commemorate the Day of the Dead. This is when thousands of people travel, sometimes hundreds of kilometres, to visit graveyards and cemeteries, to place candles and flowers on the graves of deceased loved ones.

During the day, the flowers on the graves are a sheer delight to see. At night, the cemeteries are lit up by thousands of candles. It is truly a breathtaking sight. It is also a huge money making exercise for the Catholic church and the flower sellers outside the cemeteries!

Meanwhile in Mexico, in Central America, Mexicans mark the Day of the Dead with altars that are built in their homes. Food and drink is offered for the departed. Mexicans hold grave-side vigils, in the belief their dead relatives will return to visit them.

In Mexico City, the Day of the Dead has moved from the graveyard into the streets. This is partly thanks to the James Bond film *Spectre* that opens with a huge Day of the Dead carnival procession, which was held in the Mexican capital. It helped inspire a real carnival parade, with thousands of ordinary participants now joining in the fun. This year's event saw more than 700 performers parade along the 10km route. Many floats had giant skulls, and altars covered with beautiful flowers, on them. Both onlookers and participants were dressed as macabre skeletons and many dressed as La Catrina, who is a female skeleton dressed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century costume.

#### **SPEAKING – WARM UP**

Think of three things you know about the Day of the Dead. Go round the room swapping details with others.

#### **LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION**

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

#### **READING**

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

#### **SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING**

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### **Student A questions**

- 1) Name three countries.
- 2) What is Halloween?
- 3) What is the Day of the Dead?
- 4) What is a grave?
- 5) What is the difference between a graveyard and a cemetery?

#### **Student B questions**

- 1) Name the movie.
- 2) Where is Mexico?
- 3) Who is La Catrina?
- 4) What does 'macabre' mean?
- 5) What happens in Mexico City on the Day of the Dead?

**Note: The article on the left continues on page 2**

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### Continued from page 1

The Day of the Dead or All Souls' Day is now more visible in Mexico. There has been a fight back against Halloween, with pumpkins, black cats, witches and bats increasingly replaced with skulls, Catrinas, and decorative banners. The Day of the Dead imagery in Mexico is increasingly featured on beer and canned food, and in market stalls sugary skulls are now highly popular.

In the Philippines, the Day of the Dead sees some families' playing cards and drinking around their relatives graves. Many though simply light a candle and pray at the grave.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about '**The Day of the Dead**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### SPEAKING – 2 – PRESENTATION

*On your own/In pairs* - Prepare a two minute presentation about *Halloween or The Day of the Dead or both.* Allow 3-5 mins to prepare.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you celebrate Halloween? If yes, how?
- 3) Do you commemorate or celebrate the Day of the Dead? How?
- 4) What is the difference between Halloween and the Day of the Dead?
- 5) Is Halloween and the Day of the Dead celebrated in your country?
- 6) Have you watched the James Bond movie – *Spectre*? If yes, how was it?
- 7) Would you like to visit Mexico City to see the Day of the Dead parade?
- 8) Have you ever been to Mexico?
- 9) Does your country see a carnival parade go through the streets to celebrate the Day of the Dead?
- 10) Do you prefer Halloween or the Day of the Dead? Why?

### SPEAKING – 3 - ROLEPLAY

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Halloween v The Day of the Dead – in Europe, Mexico and beyond.*

- 1) An American.
- 2) A Mexican.
- 3) A Catholic European.
- 4) A Halloween lover.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – 1 - ROLEPLAY

*Student A* thinks Halloween is great. *Student B* is thinks it is not and prefers to commemorate the Day of the Dead. 2-3 mins.

### SPEAKING – 4 - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

**Halloween v The Day of the Dead**  
**Compare your country with other countries**

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) When do you like to light a candle?
- 2) When was the last time you lit a candle? Why?
- 3) When was the last time you visited a cemetery or graveyard? Why?
- 4) Would you party by a dead relative's grave?
- 5) Do you buy flowers to commemorate the Day of the Dead?
- 6) Would you visit a graveyard or cemetery on All Souls' Day to visit your dead relatives? Why? Why not?
- 7) Is the Day of the Dead just a huge money making exercise?
- 8) What is the best carnival you have ever seen?
- 9) Have you ever visited a cemetery late at night? Why?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Halloween v The Day of the Dead - in Europe, Mexico and beyond**

While Halloween is celebrated on the evening of October 31, the Day of the Dead is commemorated on October 31, November 1 and 2.

Halloween sees people dress up as witches and (1)\_\_. There are (2)\_\_ and black cats. Folk like to party. The night is (3)\_\_ in the USA and the UK. The event has spread itself around the world.

One day (4)\_\_, Catholics in Continental Europe, Central Europe, the Philippines, and in Mexico, like to (5)\_\_ the Day of the Dead. This is when thousands of people travel, sometimes hundreds of kilometres, to visit (6)\_\_ and (7)\_\_, to place candles and flowers on the (8)\_\_ of deceased loved ones.

**popular / skeletons / later / graveyards / graves / cemeteries / commemorate / bats**

During the day, the flowers on the graves are a sheer delight to see. At night, the cemeteries are lit up by thousands of candles. It is truly a breath-taking sight. It is also a huge money making exercise for the Catholic church and the flower sellers outside the cemeteries!

Meanwhile in Mexico, in Central America, Mexicans mark the Day of the Dead with altars that are built in their homes. Food and drink is offered for the departed. Mexicans hold grave-side (1)\_\_, in the belief their dead relatives will return to visit them.

In Mexico City, the Day of the Dead has moved from the graveyard into the streets. This is (2)\_\_ thanks to the James Bond film *Spectre* that opens with a huge Day of the Dead carnival (3)\_\_, which was held in the Mexican capital. It helped inspire a real carnival (4)\_\_, with thousands of ordinary (5)\_\_ now joining in the fun. This year's (6)\_\_ saw more than 700 performers parade along the 10km (7)\_\_. Many floats had giant (8)\_\_, and altars covered with beautiful flowers, on them.

**partly / event / parade / participants / skulls / procession / route / vigils**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Halloween v The Day of the Dead - in Europe, Mexico and beyond**

While Halloween is celebrated on the evening (1)\_\_ October 31, the Day of the Dead is commemorated on October 31, November 1 and 2.

Halloween sees people dress up (2)\_\_ witches and skeletons. There are bats and black cats. Folk like to party. The night is popular (3)\_\_ the USA and the UK. The event has spread itself around the world.

One day later, Catholics in Continental Europe, Central Europe, (4)\_\_ Philippines, and (5)\_\_ Mexico, like to commemorate the Day of (6)\_\_ Dead. This is when thousands of people travel, sometimes hundreds of kilometres, to visit graveyards (7)\_\_ cemeteries, to place candles and flowers (8)\_\_ the graves of deceased loved ones.

**on / in / of / as / in / and / the / the**

During the day, the flowers on the graves are a sheer delight to see. At night, the cemeteries are lit up by thousands of candles. It is truly a breath-taking sight. It is (1)\_\_ a huge money making exercise for the Catholic church and the flower sellers outside the cemeteries!

(2)\_\_ in Mexico, in Central America, Mexicans mark the Day of the Dead with altars that are built in their homes. Food and drink is offered for the departed. Mexicans hold grave-side vigils, in the belief (3)\_\_ dead relatives will return to visit them.

In Mexico City, the Day of the Dead has moved from the graveyard (4)\_\_ the streets. This is partly thanks to the James Bond film *Spectre* (5)\_\_ opens with a huge Day of the Dead carnival procession, (6)\_\_ was held in the Mexican capital. It helped inspire a real carnival parade, with thousands of ordinary participants now joining in the fun. This year's event saw more (7)\_\_ 700 performers parade along the 10km route. Many floats had giant skulls, and altars covered (8)\_\_ beautiful flowers, on them.

**with / into / their / also / which / meanwhile / that / than**

## Halloween v The Day of the Dead – 05<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### Halloween v The Day of the Dead - in Europe, Mexico and beyond

While Halloween is celebrated on the evening of October 31, \_\_\_\_\_ is commemorated on October 31, November 1 and 2. Halloween sees people dress up as witches and skeletons. There are bats and black cats. Folk like to party. The night is popular in the USA and the UK. The event has \_\_\_\_\_ the world.

One day later, Catholics in Continental Europe, Central Europe, the Philippines, and in Mexico, like to \_\_\_\_\_ of the Dead. This is when thousands of people travel, sometimes hundreds of kilometres, to visit \_\_\_\_\_, to place \_\_\_\_\_ on the graves of deceased loved ones. During the day, the flowers on the graves are a sheer delight to see. At night, the cemeteries are lit up by thousands of candles. It is truly a \_\_\_\_\_. It is also a huge money making exercise for the Catholic church and the flower sellers outside the cemeteries!

Meanwhile in Mexico, in Central America, Mexicans mark the Day of the Dead with altars that are built in their

homes. Food and drink is offered for the departed. Mexicans hold \_\_\_\_\_, in the belief their dead relatives will return to visit them. In Mexico City, the Day of the Dead has moved from the graveyard into the streets. This is partly thanks to the \_\_\_\_\_ that opens with a huge Day of the Dead carnival procession, which was held in the Mexican capital. It helped inspire a \_\_\_\_\_, with thousands of ordinary participants now joining in the fun.

This year's event saw more than 700 performers parade along the 10km route. Many floats had giant skulls, and altars covered with beautiful flowers, on them. Both \_\_\_\_\_ were dressed as macabre skeletons and many dressed as La Catrina, who is a female skeleton dressed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century costume.

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 movies, books, or TV shows about Halloween and/or the Day of the Dead. Talk briefly about each of them. Which is best? *5-10 minutes*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

1) Halloween \_\_\_\_\_

2) I think \_\_\_\_\_

3) The Day of the Dead \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: *Halloween v The Day of the Dead*.** Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Halloween v The Day of the Dead***.

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) vigils
- 2) cemeteries
- 3) candles
- 4) carnival
- 5) skeleton
- 6) procession
- 7) graveyards
- 8) sheer
- 9) kilometres
- 10) popular

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) Halloween
- 12) continental
- 13) commemorate
- 14) sheer
- 15) breath-taking
- 16) grave-side
- 17) macabre
- 18) inspire
- 19) skulls
- 20) giant

Halloween v The Day of the Dead – *05<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017*