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ENGLISH
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Rockers From Rome

**The
Spookiest
Night of
the Year**

Why Do Americans
Love Halloween?

**Just Add
Additives**

The Truth About
Processed Food

EXTRA
16
PAGES

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OR LOVE IT HATE IT?



Halloween
in the US

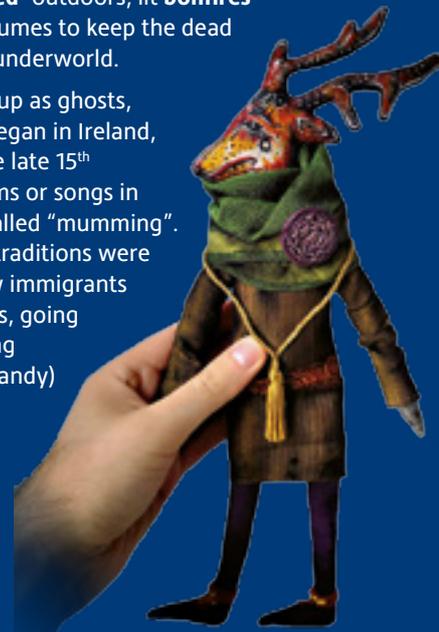
EMILY PRUCHA (US)

The spookiest¹ day in the US isn't even a public holiday. Celebrated every year on October 31st, Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, is an evening when children (and many adults) put on costumes, watch horror films and attend parties with ghoulish² decorations and lots of candy. After Christmas, Halloween is the second biggest commercial holiday in America.

Where did Halloween come from?

Halloween has its origins³ in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a time when the connection to the spirit world was strongest. People gathered⁴ outdoors, lit bonfires⁵ and dressed in scary costumes to keep the dead from taking them to the underworld.

The tradition of dressing up as ghosts, witches and skeletons⁶ began in Ireland, Scotland and Wales in the late 15th century. Performing poems or songs in exchange for food was called "mumming". In the 19th century these traditions were brought to the US by new immigrants from Ireland. By the 1950s, going trick-or-treating (knocking door-to-door to ask for candy) had become the most important part of the Halloween experience in America.





Trick-or-treating or a costume party?

However, over the years, Halloween night crimes, vandalism and parents worrying about their children walking alone in the dark led to community-

organized and private Halloween parties. At these parties you can play games like bobbing for apples*, **carving jack-o-lanterns**⁷ and **gross**⁸ challenges like sticking your hand in a bowl of "guts"⁹ – cooked pasta noodles. Do you think these are more fun than asking for candy?

How do Americans prepare for the holiday?

No party is complete without proper decorations. For many Americans, Halloween is all about turning their home into a **haunted house**¹⁰ or making their front yard look like a **graveyard**¹¹. Some shops sell Halloween decorations, like paper witches, **cobwebs**¹² and plastic **gravestones**¹³, all year. Websites like Pinterest offer DIY (do-it-yourself) options for decorating **on a budget**¹⁴.



Does scary ever go out of style?

Today, the only **limitation on**¹⁵ dressing up for Halloween is your own imagination. Witches, black cats and vampires are always popular. However, dressing up as a famous person or film character, or creating your own DIY costume is what most people do these days. If you walk down a US city street this year, expect to see people dressed as superheroes like Batman or Wonder Woman and film characters like Harry Potter or Baby Yoda.

Americans even dress their four-legged friends. Pet costumes include everything from classic spiders and pumpkins to **couriers**¹⁶ or a trendy Starbucks pumpkin spice latte. Have you ever seen a puppy dressed as a hot dog?

A night of too much sugar?

For many, the biggest negative of Halloween is the crazy amount of candy eaten. On Halloween nights, children consume thousands of extra calories just from eating candy. Halloween favorites are chocolate bars like Hershey's, Snickers, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, M&M's and KitKats.

Not only is too much sugar bad for your teeth, buying that much candy is very expensive. According to statistics, the average American family spends twice as much money on Halloween candy as a poor family spends on food per day.



How can trick-or-treaters help?

Seventy years ago UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) started a project to help children who need food more than candy. Trick-or-treaters can use orange boxes to collect coins to be used for food and **supplies**¹⁷ for children in need.



So, what do you think, now that you know more about Halloween in the US – do you love it or hate it?

TASK

Correct the mistakes in the sentences about Halloween.

- Halloween is the biggest commercial holiday of the year in America.
- By the 1850s, trick-or-treating had become the most important part of Halloween.
- At a Halloween party you might have to put your hand into a bowl of brains (don't worry – it's actually just pasta).
- Many Americans like to turn their front yards into haunted houses.
- A popular costume for pets is a pumpkin spice cappuccino.
- On Halloween nights, children often consume hundreds of extra calories.

→ SOLUTIONS IN THE TF

Discuss

Which is the best part of Halloween?
decorations / costumes / candy /
carving pumpkins / scary atmosphere
Do you know anybody in your
country who celebrates Halloween?
How do they celebrate?

*Glossary

bobbing for apples – a game in which players try to catch apples floating in water with their teeth

Vocabulary

- spooky** ['spu:ki] – strašidelný
- ghoulish** ['gu:lɪʃ] – ohavný, morbidní
- origin** ['ɒrɪdʒɪn] – počátek, původ
- to gather** ['gæθə(r)] – shromáždit se
- bonfire** ['bɒnfaiə(r)] – oheň
- skeleton** ['skelɪtn] – kostlivec
- to carve a jack-o-lantern**
[kɑ:v dʒæk ə 'læntən] – vyřezávat dýni
- gross** [grɔ:s] – nechutný
- guts** [gʌts] – střeva
- haunted house** ['hɔ:ntɪd] – strašidelný dům
- graveyard** ['grevjɑ:d] – hřbitov
- cobweb** ['kɒbweb] – pavučina
- gravestone** ['grevstəʊn] – náhrobek
- on a budget** ['bʌdʒɪt] – levně
- limitation on sth** [lɪmɪ'teɪʃn] – omezení něčeho
- courier** ['kɔ:riə(r)] – kurýr
- supplies** [sə'plaɪz] – potřeby