

CrossTalk

October CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2003

The History and Heroes of Halloween

It's that **spooky** time of year again, known to Americans and Europeans as **Halloween**. This is a time for ghosts, monsters, and **pumpkins** in the window. It's also a time when kids love to dress up in scary costumes and ask their neighbours for money and candy! It's a custom called **trick-or-treating**.

But how and where did this strange festival begin?



Halloween began in the 5th century BC, which makes it about 2,400 years old! The Celts (an ancient people who lived in Britain, Ireland and France), celebrated New Year's day on October 31st, and believed that on this day the **spirits** of all the people who had died that year, came back to earth to **steal** other people's bodies. So, to protect themselves from the spirits, people would **extinguish** all the lights in their homes, dress up in scary **costumes**, and walk the streets, making as much noise and trouble as possible, in order to **frighten** away the spirits.



The tradition was then taken to America in the 1840's by Irish **immigrants escaping** from the Irish potato **famine**.

Halloween is now a mixture of many traditions. For example;

The Jack-o-lantern custom comes from an old Irish **folk** story about a drunk man who, because of his bad ways, was made to walk the earth with only a little light inside a **turnip** to guide him.

The Trick-or-treating custom comes from a 9th century European custom called 'souling', which took place on November 2nd. On this day, early Christians would walk through villages **begging** for 'soul cakes'. The more cakes they received, the more **prayers** they promised to make for dead relatives of the person who gave them the cakes.

Nowadays, these traditions live on with many people dressing up and acting crazy on Halloween night.

Will you be joining in this year?



Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

spooky	気味の悪い	pumpkins	かぼちゃ	trick	いたずらする	treat	ご馳走する
spirits	霊	steal	盗む	extinguish	消す	costumes	服装
frighten	おどかして~する			immigrants	移民者	escape	逃げる
famine	飢饉	folk story	民話	turnip	かぶら		
begging	懇願する	soul	魂	prayers	祈る人々		

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Well, the big day of cricket, the West Japan Cricket Cup, has been fought and won. No, Matsuyama didn't win. In fact, we didn't do very well at all. But the event was a great success. The weather was perfect, everyone participating and observing enjoyed themselves immensely and many new friends were made. We are all eagerly looking forward to next year's cup.

Junko Says: Here's some good news for our students! Many of you are aware of our new internet lessons program. And you are also aware of the special government subsidized courses we offer at Crossroads. Now, we can also offer these same subsidized courses through our internet program! So tell all your busy friends about this great new opportunity to study with us, and save!!



Joanna Says: I've always been a person with too many hobbies, which means I've become a 'jack of all trades, master of none' (bad at many things, and very good at none of them!). My new hobby is knitting. I found some beautiful yarn shops in Matsuyama, and now I can't seem to stop. So if you see me wearing something woollen and strange, it's probably something I made.

Tamara Says: Christmas still seems like a long way off but I've already finished most of my Christmas shopping! I'm so excited to be able to spend the holiday with my family this year so I bought everyone special gifts from Japan. I went to Dogo and managed to find almost everything I wanted. The last thing on my list is two big bottles of Sake...one for my uncle and one for me!!



Duncan Says: I got some really good news recently: I am now an uncle! My sister had (gave birth to) a lovely little baby girl!! Her name's Elizabeth, and she looks a lot like my sister. I hope I can see her (and my sister, of course!) soon – I might go back home to the UK for Christmas. Then again, Christmas in Japan can be "interesting"...

Greg Says: Last month I took part in a cricket tournament in Tobe. We had a fun time (thanks to the Crossroads cheerleaders) and really look forward to it again next year. Actually I didn't realize how old I had got because the next day when I woke up I couldn't move an inch. If anyone is interested in trying a new sport, please let me know and come along to one of our training days.



Yuka Says: It's getting cooler day by day, and now is a good time to go on a trip. I like travelling like most of you do, and the best part of it is planning, which is always exciting. There are books to be read and travel agencies to be consulted. Now, I'm planning to visit an aquarium next month. It should be interesting to watch rays, sharks and turtles swimming.

A Word From You

Yukiko Yagi says: Last month I went to Scotland, England, and France. Actually, I never used to like France much because the people didn't seem very patient. This time though, I was very impressed by everything there. The food was delicious, the people were kind, and the museums were fantastic!

Yoshihiro Tanaka says: Last month I started wearing contact lenses instead of eye-glasses. My eyes feel great and it's so nice to see everything (and everyone) clearly without having to wear glasses.

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS for English lessons? Try our lessons *on the internet!*

It's CROSSROADS in your home! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, materials, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Practice your English, and get spooked at the same time!

<http://www.halloweenghoststories.com>

NET NOTEBOOK:

Take a look at the internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Notice Board

Congratulations to:

Yoichi Matsumoto has passed all of his exams and is going to be a police officer in his hometown in Kagawa Prefecture.

Tomoka to Brighton, England for 6 months, on a homestay. Enjoy your trip, Tomoka!

Easy English Lesson

'Used to' & 'to be used to doing'

These are confusing because they sound so similar. However, their meanings are very different;

Used to – For talking about something in the past, e.g.

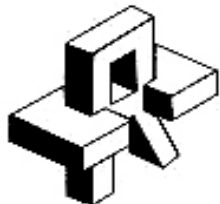
I **used to** smoke, but now I don't.

He **used to** be married, but now he's divorced.

Be used to doing – For talking about actions that you are accustomed to, e.g.,

I'm **used to** Japanese food

He's **used to** working hard



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