



Halloween

Conversation > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

hair-raising	Extremely frightening.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: The story about his car accident was hair-raising.</i>

confront	To face and deal with a difficult situation, person, organization, etc.
[verb]	<i>Ex: Our business is confronting many problems.</i>

mischievous	Enjoying playing tricks on people and doing things to annoy them.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: He was plotting a mischievous prank.</i>

so-called	Used to indicate a name that is commonly used for something, but oftentimes deemed unsuitable or incorrect.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: His so-called charisma is starting to annoy some people.</i>



refrain from	To stop yourself from doing something.
[phrasal verb]	<i>Ex: You must refrain from smoking in this area.</i>

anything but	Anything except.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: When she heard the bad news, she couldn't do anything but cry.</i>

extensive	Large in amount, area, extent, etc.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: This building needs extensive repairs.</i>

little to no	Having a small amount of something, if any.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I have little to no experience in working with customers.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Bob: Hey Lea, could you please lend me a hand with my Halloween presentation?

Lea: Sure, let me see. Let's start with the basics. What is the origin of the name "Halloween"?

Bob: It comes from the word "hallow," which means to respect or honor greatly.

Lea: Yeah, that's why many people honor the deceased and saints.

Bob: If it's a holiday to honor the dead, why do people take part in hair-raising activities?

Lea: Originally, the intention was to use humor to confront death, Bob.

Bob: I see. So, what are some typical Halloween activities nowadays?

Lea: Well, people love going to costume parties and trick-or-treating, some even play mischievous pranks.



Bob: What can you tell me about trick-or-treating?

Lea: Trick-or-treating is a very old custom. Historically, poor children would go door-to-door asking for food.

Bob: Why would they do that, Lea?

Lea: It was done in the name of the dead, and in return, they received so-called “soul cakes”.

Bob: In some parts of the world, people refrain from eating anything but vegetarian meals on this day.

Lea: Great! I see that you have also done extensive research and learned about Halloween customs.

Bob: I did my best. I stayed up late working on this presentation several nights in a row.

Lea: Well, I think you are ready and can finally get some rest.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

little to no
so-called
anything but
confronted
refrain from
hair-raising
extensive
mischievous

1. Please _____ using your mobile phone here.
2. He accumulated _____ knowledge over the years.
3. She has a _____ sense of humor.
4. She told us a _____ story. I was really scared.
5. When she winked at me, I couldn't do _____ smile.
6. The designer chose the _____ futuristic style for the new collection.
7. I _____ my fear of heights by climbing a mountain.
8. I have _____ experience in this job.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You want to plan a Halloween party. Talk with your friend Emily about Halloween customs. The teacher can be Emily.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. What is your favorite Halloween activity?
2. Do you believe in fortune-telling? Why? Why not?
3. Have you ever played a prank on someone? Or, has anyone played a prank on you?
4. Why do you think some people like scary forms of entertainment? Are you one of them?
5. How do you honor the dead in your country?