THE 40 WORDS A1 to C1

Halloween Vocabulary

Forty words in five topics, from a vampire's cape at A1 to expressions adults use at work all year at C1. Every topic has its own page with short exercises. Students can work alone or in pairs, and every answer is on page 7.

LEVEL	STUDENTS	WORDS	TIME
A1 to C1	Adults and older teens	8 per topic, 40 in all	20 to 30 minutes a page

1 Costumes A1-A2 · page 2

wig	false hair
cape	a long coat with no sleeves
fangs	long, pointed teeth
face paint	colors you put on your face
horns	pointed things on an animal's head
wings	a bird or a fairy flies with them
tail	it grows at the back of an animal
broom	a brush on a long stick

2 Decorating the House A2-B1 · page 3

porch	a covered space at the front door
doorstep	the step in front of the door
lawn	short grass in front of a house
tombstone	a stone with a name, at a grave
scarecrow	a figure in old clothes in a field
hay bale	a big block of dry grass
string lights	a long wire with small lights
fog machine	a machine that makes fake smoke

3 Describing Fear B1-B2 · page 4

creepy	makes you uncomfortable, often a person
eerie	strange and quiet in a frightening way
chilling	seriously frightening, often real
unsettling	makes you uneasy, not exactly afraid
spine-chilling	so frightening you feel it in your body
terrified	extremely frightened
on edge	nervous and unable to relax
to get goosebumps	small bumps appear on your skin

4 Traditions in Europe and Latin America

B1-B2 · page 5

All Saints' Day	November 1, for remembering the dead
Day of the Dead	November 1 and 2 in Mexico
Bonfire Night	November 5 in the UK
cemetery	a place where people are buried
grave	the place where one person is buried
altar	a table with candles and photos
marigold	a bright orange flower
ancestor	a family member from long ago

5 Spooky Expressions for Every Month

B2-C1 · page 6

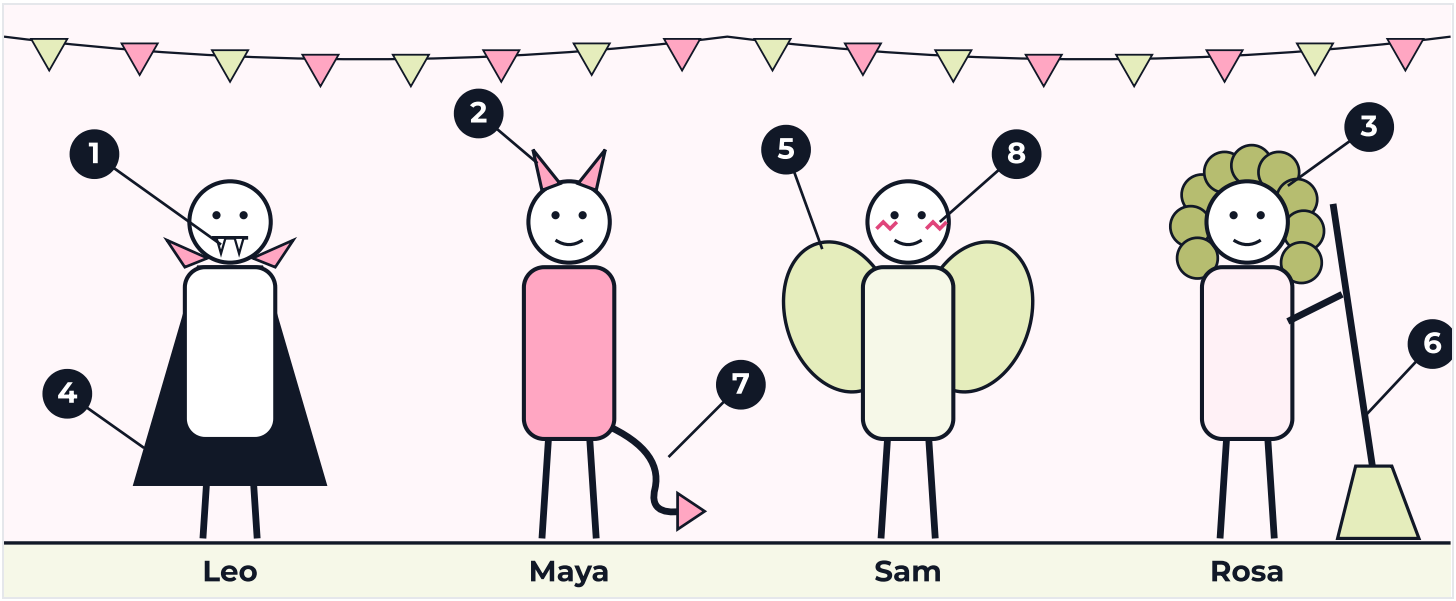
skeleton staff	the smallest number of workers possible
a dead end	a situation with no way forward
a dead giveaway	a sign that clearly shows the truth
bored to death	extremely bored
come back to haunt you	a past mistake causes problems later
give up the ghost	stop working, for a machine
scared stiff	so frightened you can't move
dead to the world	very deeply asleep

TOPIC 1 A1-A2

Costumes

A Look at the picture. Write the word for each number. Use the words in the box.

face paint | wings | horns | tail | cape | fangs | broom | wig



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____

B Look at the picture again. Who is it? Write the name.

1. She is holding a broom. _____
2. He has got fangs. _____
3. She has got horns and a tail. _____
4. He is wearing wings. _____
5. She is wearing a big green wig. _____
6. He has got face paint on his cheeks. _____

C Your costume. Write three sentences with *I'm wearing*, *I've got* and *I'm holding*.

I'm wearing a black cape. I've got fangs. I'm holding a bag for candy.

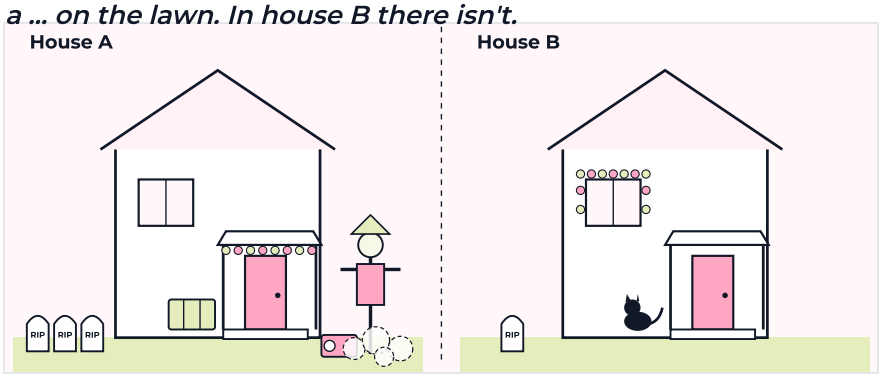
TOPIC 2 A2-B1

Decorating the House

A Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter in the box.

1 **porch**	☐	**A**	a stone with a name, at a grave
2 **doorstep**	☐	**B**	a long wire with small lights
3 **lawn**	☐	**C**	a covered space at the front door
4 **tombstone**	☐	**D**	a big block of dry grass
5 **scarecrow**	☐	**E**	short grass in front of a house
6 **hay bale**	☐	**F**	a machine that makes fake smoke
7 **string lights**	☐	**G**	a figure in old clothes in a field
8 **fog machine**	☐	**H**	the step in front of the door

B Find five differences between house A and house B. Write sentences with *there is* and *there are*, like *In house A there is a … on the lawn. In house B there isn't.*



C Complete the sentences. Use each word from the box once.

porch | fog machine | scarecrow | string lights | doorstep

1. Our neighbors put a _____ by the gate. It frightens the kids, not the birds.
2. Please wipe your feet. There's a mat on the _____.
3. The _____ set off the smoke alarm twice.
4. Every evening, the family sits on the _____ and waves at the trick-or-treaters.
5. They hung orange _____ around every window.

TOPIC 3 B1-B2

Describing Fear

A **Read each situation and tick the best word.**

1 The man at the bus stop smiled at me and didn't stop staring for ten minutes. He was really ...

- ◯ **creepy**
- ◯ **on edge**
- ◯ **spine-chilling**

2 There were no cars, no birds and no people in the town at noon. It was completely silent. It felt ...

- ◯ **terrified**
- ◯ **eerie**
- ◯ **goosebumps**

3 The documentary is about a real murder. The last thing the killer says is ...

- ◯ **on edge**
- ◯ **goosebumps**
- ◯ **chilling**

4 Nothing bad happens in the film, but I felt strange and uneasy for an hour after it. It was ...

- ◯ **unsettling**
- ◯ **terrified**
- ◯ **on edge**

5 At night we heard a sound in the forest that none of us could explain. It was ...

- ◯ **terrified**
- ◯ **goosebumps**
- ◯ **eerie**

6 The old doll in the attic has eyes that seem to follow you around the room. It's ...

- ◯ **on edge**
- ◯ **creepy**
- ◯ **terrified**

B **Say it better. Replace the words in bold with a word or phrase from the box. Write the new sentence.**

spine-chilling	on edge	I got goosebumps	terrified

1 When the lights went out, I was **more frightened than ever in my life**.

2 I couldn't relax all evening. I was **nervous and waiting for something bad**.

3 When the choir started to sing, **small bumps appeared on my arms**.

4 It's a **really, really frightening** story. Don't read it before bed.

C **Write about a time you were on edge or got goosebumps. Where were you, and what happened? Then tell a partner.**

I was on edge all night, because ...

TOPIC 4 B1-B2

Traditions in Europe and Latin America

A **Five people describe the start of November at home. Complete the texts with the words from the box. Write the number of the gap next to the word.**

☐ grave	☐ Bonfire Night	☐ marigolds	☐ cemetery
☐ Day of the Dead	☐ ancestors	☐ All Saints' Day	☐ altar

Valeria · Oaxaca, Mexico

The (1) _____ is on November 1 and 2. At home we build an (2) _____ with photos of our grandparents, candles, bread and their favorite food. The orange flowers everywhere are (3) _____. People say their color and smell help the dead find the way home.

Zofia · Kraków, Poland

On (4) _____, November 1, almost everybody visits the family (5) _____. We clean it, bring flowers and light candles in small glass jars. At night, thousands of little lights glow in the dark.

Javier · Madrid, Spain

November 1 is a public holiday here. Families take flowers to the (6) _____, and bakeries sell small white sweets called huesos de santo, or saints' bones. Theaters often put on an old play, Don Juan Tenorio.

Aoife · Galway, Ireland

Halloween started here, with an old festival called Samhain. People believed the spirits of their (7) _____ came back on that night. We still eat barmbrack, a fruit bread with a ring inside. If you find the ring, you will get married soon!

Harry · Manchester, UK

Here the big night is not Halloween but (8) _____, on November 5. It remembers Guy Fawkes, who tried to blow up Parliament in 1605. There are huge fires in the parks and fireworks everywhere.

B · And in your family?

Write two sentences about how your family remembers the dead, with two words from the box. Then tell a partner which tradition above you would like to see.

_____

_____

_____

C **Who says it? Write the name.**

1. Thousands of little candles glow in the dark. _____
2. Finding something in your bread means a wedding. _____
3. Orange flowers help the dead come home. _____
4. Bakeries sell sweets named after bones. _____
5. The fireworks remember a plan from 1605. _____
6. Halloween began in our country. _____

TOPIC 5 B2-C1

Spooky Expressions for Every Month

A **A team chat at the end of October. Complete each message with an expression from the box.**

a dead giveaway	scared stiff	skeleton staff	gave up the ghost	dead to the world
bored to death	come back to haunt you	a dead end		

PRIYA Half the team is on vacation, so we're working with a _____ this week.

MARCO The client meeting was two hours of slides. I was _____.

HANNAH We've asked three suppliers and none of them can help. It's _____.

DIEGO Sam says he isn't leaving, but his empty desk is _____.

PRIYA Please don't skip the testing. That shortcut will _____.

MARCO The office printer finally _____ this morning.

HANNAH Before my first presentation to the board, I was _____.

DIEGO Sorry I didn't answer your call last night. I was _____ by ten.

B **One word is wrong in each sentence. Write the right word.**

1. We're working with a bones staff this week. _____
2. The meeting was so long that I was bored to sleep. _____
3. Her big smile was a dead present: she got the job. _____
4. My old laptop finally gave up the spirit. _____

C **Write two true sentences about your work or your studies. Use two of the expressions.**

Our team runs on a skeleton staff every August.

ANSWERS

Answer Key

Topic 1 · Costumes page 2

A 1 fangs, 2 horns, 3 wig, 4 cape, 5 wings, 6 broom, 7 tail, 8 face paint
B 1 Rosa, 2 Leo, 3 Maya, 4 Sam, 5 Rosa, 6 Sam
C Students' own answers.

Topic 2 · Decorating the House page 3

A 1 C, 2 H, 3 E, 4 A, 5 G, 6 D, 7 B, 8 F
B (1) In house A there is a scarecrow on the lawn. In house B there isn't. (2) In house A there are three tombstones on the lawn. In house B there is one. (3) In house A the string lights are on the porch. In house B they are around the window. (4) In house A there is a hay bale next to the porch. In house B there is a cat. (5) In house A there is a fog machine and there is fog on the lawn. In house B there isn't.
C 1 scarecrow, 2 doorstep, 3 fog machine, 4 porch, 5 string lights

Topic 3 · Describing Fear page 4

A 1 creepy, 2 eerie, 3 chilling, 4 unsettling, 5 eerie, 6 creepy
B 1 terrified, 2 on edge, 3 I got goosebumps, 4 spine-chilling (3 *I got goosebumps when the choir started to sing* also works)
C Students' own answers.

Topic 4 · Traditions in Europe and Latin America page 5

A 1 Day of the Dead, 2 altar, 3 marigolds, 4 All Saints' Day, 5 grave, 6 cemetery, 7 ancestors, 8 Bonfire Night
C 1 Zofia, 2 Aoife, 3 Valeria, 4 Javier, 5 Harry, 6 Aoife

Topic 5 · Spooky Expressions for Every Month page 6

A 1 skeleton staff, 2 bored to death, 3 a dead end, 4 a dead giveaway, 5 come back to haunt you, 6 gave up the ghost, 7 scared stiff, 8 dead to the world
B 1 skeleton (not bones), 2 death (not sleep), 3 giveaway (not present), 4 ghost (not spirit)

Exercises with "your" answers have no key: compare with a partner or ask your teacher to check.