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A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. What day of the month is halloween? Why is halloween celebrated? Can you explain the history of halloween? How is halloween celebrated in your country? Do you believe in ghosts? What makes you afraid of ghosts? What are some of the symbols of halloween? What kind of costume are you going to wear to the halloween party? Is your pumpkin still out ? Are you still eating halloween candy? Why do you like to celebrate Halloween? Do you believe in magic? Did you know there were real 'witch trials' in the seventeenth century? Why do you think they happened? Do you think there are really witches and monsters and creatures living amongst us in the real world, or are those things just from our imagination? If you could choose to be any monster or creature, what would it be? What is your favorite magical story? Character in a book? Film?Legend? If you could use a magical spell, like a love spell, on somebody, would you? What other countries celebrate Halloween? Can you describe the best costume you've seen. Is your pumpkin still out? Are you still eating Halloween candy? How long does it take for a pumpkin to rot? Are you going to have an Halloween party? Would you go out and trick or treat? Who would you go with? Do you know any Halloween legends? Do you think Halloween is dangerous? What do you know about the history of the holiday? Do you think it is appropriate to celebrate it still today? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Related: The Unexplained Ghosts Do you believe in ghosts? Do you believe that dead people come back to life as ghosts? Would you talk to a ghost? Do you know any good stories about ghosts? Do you know anyone who has said that they have seen a ghost? Have you ever come in contact with a ghost? (Have you ever seen a ghost?) If one of your friends told you they had seen a ghost, would you believe him/her? Why/Why not? What is the scariest ghost story you know? Is there an area where you live (park, house, etc.) that is known to be haunted? If so, what is the story or legend that makes people believe this area is haunted? Have you ever visited this place? Do you believe that houses can be haunted? Have you ever been to one? Do you believe that houses have ghosts in them sometimes? Were you ever touched or physically harmed by a ghost or "spirit"? If so, how? If you were a ghost who and where would you haunt? How do you know if a ghost is near you?If you don't believe in ghosts, then what have you heard other people say? If you don't believe in ghost, why don't you believe? If you don't believe in ghost, and you actually have seen one, what were your reactions? Have you ever felt that you knew a ghost that you saw? If you were a ghost, who or what would you haunt? Why do people say they see ghosts even though they sometimes do not? Do you put any faith in the modern day ghost hunters? Can you recall any strange or unexplained events in your life? Do you believe your ancestors are watching you? What do you think about the images movies give us about aliens? Would you spend the night in a place where people say that there are ghosts? Would you spend the night in a very old uninhabited house, church school that was known to have ghosts? Have you seen a ghost? What kind of ghost? Did you get to talk with the ghost? Have you though about becoming a ghostbuster? Would you be scared if a ghost talked to you? Do you think we can feel if a ghost is near by us by the changes in the weather? What reasons might ghosts haunt? Have you ever felt that you knew a ghost that you saw?(like a grandparent or other relative) Superstitions Do you think that there is truth behind superstitions? Do you walk under ladders? What are some superstitions in your country?What are some things that are considered unlucky?What are some things that are considered lucky? What numbers are considered to be lucky and unlucky in your country? A four-leaf clover is often considered lucky. What are some other things which are considered lucky. Do you have a lucky number? What are some superstitions in the United States? Canada? Australia, England? Your country? Psychics, Fortunetellers and Knowing the Future Have you ever gone to a psychic?If so, what were you told?Did you believe it? Why do some people consult psychics before doing important things? Do you know anyone that has ever been to a psychic? Why do some people need fortunetellers? How do people predict the future in your country? Do you think that dreams come true? Do you think that dreams can help us solve our problems? Have you ever had a dream that come true?Have you ever had a dream that later came true? Do you think that some people can predict the future? What is your blood type?Do you believe that you can tell a lot about a person from his/her blood type?Do you believe that blood types can tell what a person's personality is? Is the belief in UFOs, aliens, and physic powers growing because belief in religion is dying? Do you believe in horoscopes? Do you read your horoscope? If so, do you believe it? What is your star sign? Do you believe the predictions contained within your horoscope? Are horoscopes important? Do you read your horoscope often? Does it come true? Does your star sign describe your personality traits well? The Unexplained Has anything ever happened to you that you cannot explain? Do you believe that there are many things in our universe that cannot be explained? Give examples. Do you believe that you are from another planet?Do you believe you have supernatural powers there? Have you ever tried to contact another planet? ESP Do you believe in ESP? How can a person know what kind of ESP abilities he/she has? What do you think are some ways of developing these abilities? UFOs Do you believe that UFOs exist? / Do you believe in UFOs? Do you know anyone who has said that they have seen a UFO? Have you ever seen a UFO?Do you know anyone who says that they have? If you saw a UFO but were alone and had no proof would you tell anyone? Who? Do you think that UFOs from other planets visit Earth? What would you do if you were taken aboard a UFO? Do you believe there is life on other planets? Have you ever seen an E.T.?Do you know anyone who says that they have? Aliens (Perhaps you should also explain that alien sometimes means a person from another country.) Do you believe in aliens? Do you think that you are an alien? Do you think aliens are monsters? If you saw an alien what do you would do? Have you ever seen an alien? Has anyone ever told you that he or she has seen an alien? Other Questions Do you believe in reincarnation? Have you ever felt that you knew someone the first time you met them? Have you ever visited a foreign country or city for the first time and found that you knew exactly where things were? Have you ever looked in the mirror and 'seen' a different face? What do you think a spirit would look like? Is the belief in UFOs, aliens, physic powers, etc, growing because the belief in religion is dying? Are you afraid of spirits? Do you believe in angels? Do you believe in witches why or why not. Do you believe in astrology? What is your astrological sign? Do you believe in coincidences? Why or why not? Do you believe in God? Why or why not? Do you believe in life after death? Do you believe in vampires? (Do you believe that vampires exist?) Do you believe in zombies? (Do you believe that zombies exist?) In many countries people believe in ghosts, spirits and dragons. Is this true in your country, and why do you think these beliefs are so common? What is the most frightening things that has ever happened to you? What is the most frightening experience you have had? Have you ever been in a cemetery at night? Why? Or why not? Would you go? Where do you think dead people go? Do you believe that people who were bad alive pay their bad behavior by staying here? Do you think heaven exist? Do you think hell exist? Have you played Ouija? Why or why no? Would you play? Do you think that spirits who appear to people are good or bad? Have you ever been contacted an angel? What did it tell you? Have you been involved in a miracle? What was it about? Do you get scared by horror stories? Do you believe that when you get a chill down your back its a rabbit running over a grave Is belief in UFOs, Aliens, Physic powers, etc, growing because belief in religion is dying? Do you think that a supernatural creature can be caught by someone? Where is the scariest place in your country? Why? Do you believe your ancestors are watching you? What's the spookiest thing that has ever happened to you? Do you believe in witches and the practice of witchcraft? What would you do or how would you react if one of your friends admitted that he/she practices witchcraft? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. of these questions come from textbooks Copyright © 1982-2000 by Charles Kelly & Lawrence Kelly (Used by Permission) Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal Primero que nada, entiende que ésta es una costumbre americana y que no hay referencia directa sobre ella en la Biblia. Sin embargo, hay principios Bíblicos que apuntan directamente sobre ella. Tal vez la mejor manera en que uno puede estar informado sobre cómo se relaciona Halloween con las enseñanzas bíblicas es relacionar la historia de ésta y después apuntar a las profecías del fin del tiempo y a dónde está llevando esta celebración. A diferencia de la observancia familiar de “Todas la Almas,” las tradiciones de Halloween nunca han sido conectadas con celebraciones religiosas cristianas de ninguna clase. Aunque el nombre es tomado de un gran fiesta cristiana (All Hallows´ Eve, que significa la noche de todos los santos), no tiene nada en común con la Fiesta de Todos los Santos, y es en cambio, una tradición de tiempos pre-cristianos que ha retenido su carácter original en forma y significado. Las costumbres de Halloween se remontan al tiempo de los antiguos druidas. Los fuegos de Halloween son encendidos en muchos lugares incluso ahora, especialmente en Gales y Escocia. Otra, y más importante tradición, es la creencia druídica que durante la noche del 1º de Noviembre, demonios, brujas, y espíritus malos vagaban por la tierra en un gozo salvaje y furioso para saludar la llegada de “su estación” – las largas noches y el oscurecimiento temprano de los meses de invierno. Aquella noche se divirtieron con los pobres mortales asustándolos, dañándolos, y realizando toda clase de trucos. La única manera para los asustados humanos de escapar de la persecución de los demonios fue ofrecerles cosas que a ellos les gustaran, especialmente golosinas y dulces. O, para escapar de la furia de estas horribles criaturas, un humano podría disfrazarse como uno de ellos y seguirlos en su vagancia. De esta manera ellos lo tomarían como uno de ellos y entonces no sería molestado. Eso es lo que la gente hizo en tiempos antiguos, y es de esta misma manera que la costumbre ha llegado a nosotros, prácticamente inalterada, como nuestra celebración familiar de Halloween. Durante el imperio Romano existía la costumbre de comer o dar frutas, especialmente manzanas, en Halloween. Esto se difundió a los países vecinos; a Irlanda y Escocia desde Gran Bretaña, y a los países Eslavos desde Austria. Esto se basa probablemente en una celebración de la deidad romana Pomona, a quien eran dedicados las huertas y los jardines. Ya que la fiesta anual de Pomona era realizada el 1° de Noviembre, la reliquia de dicha observancia llegó a ser parte de nuestra celebración de Halloween. En el libro de Apocalipsis encontrarás algunas profecías relativas a los eventos del fin del tiempo. Estas describen que Satanás y sus ángeles van a conducir un engaño maestro masivo de la gente justo antes que se cierre el período de prueba. Se basa en la mentira original que Satanás le dijo a Adán y Eva cuando pecaron – “no morirán.” Con tantas denominaciones eclesiales creyendo y enseñando la idea no-bíblica de que tan pronto como una persona muere va al cielo, esto también encaja perfectamente en la idea prevaleciente en Halloween sobre espíritus y duendes. Para aquellos que han vivido unas pocas décadas no es difícil recordar algunos años atrás y observar cuán rápidamente Halloween va escalando en la atención del público. Todo esto encaja en el engaño maestro de Satanás del tiempo del fin y en las enseñanzas del espiritismo. Básicamente por estas razones cristianos pensantes que intentan vivir como Cristo huyen asustados de cualquier cosa relacionada con Halloween. Incluso avanzan un paso más, tratan de proteger a sus hijos de esta celebración. En caso de que tú seas un padre o una madre, aquí hay algo sobre lo que pensar también. Es mejor si los padres no pasan los feriados sin notar cuán interesados están sus hijos. En estos días cuando hay peligro de que los chicos puedan estar expuestos a varias influencias malignas y puedan estar ansiosos sobre cosas erróneas, los padres deberían planificar actividades divertidas alternativas para los chicos y los jóvenes. Háganles saber que ustedes están buscando traer felicidad a través de otras actividades. Y esto es por una buena razón. Los niños quedan insatisfechos si todos están celebrando un evento especial y a ellos no se les permite tener ninguna parte en esto. Este espíritu de pandilla se manifiesta de varias maneras. Ellos quieren hacer lo que otros están haciendo. Simplemente deja unos pocos niños del vecindario hablar sobre el asunto, hacer planes, e involucrarse en asuntos de Halloween, y el resto sentirá que también ellos deben tener parte en la “diversión”. En estos días, con la comercialización de todo lo conectado con Halloween, todos los niños se enteran de esta celebración con varias semanas de anticipación. Halloween es una celebración del hemisferio oeste. Las cosas que son toleradas aquí en países extranjeros no serían bienvenidas. En comunidades donde los jóvenes están celebrando las ideas asustadizas y disfrazándose con máscaras y vestimentas raras para seguir la costumbre, algunos padres guardan a sus hijos en el hogar. Algunos planearán una fiesta para un grupo de niños. Otros pueden planear un viaje especial para llevar la familia lejos de los alrededores del hogar. Y entonces están aquellos que intentan conciliar el hecho de que están en casa y se sientan en la oscuridad para mirar a los que pasan por ahí. Un entretenimiento usual es organizar los niños para recolectar comida para canastas de Thanksgiving (Día de Acción de Gracias) para distribuirlas unas pocas semanas más adelante. Una vez hecha la recolección a menudo ellos juegan algunos juegos y tienen ligeros refrescos antes de volver a sus hogares. Tales atardeceres son recordados como ocasiones gozosas y no como algo vergonzante. ¿Pero qué acerca de aquellos que vienen a tu puerta? Darles manzanas a los precios de hoy probablemente no sea sabio. Algunos no encuentran problema en repartir golosinas, mientras que otros ni lo pensarían. Probablemente el mejor curso de acción es hacer planes para ese atardecer con anticipación. Haz planes para que la familia conozca los principios y estándares de la Biblia que probarán ser una bendición y que ayudarán a cada miembro, mientras se aseguran que los trucos y las travesuras no producirán lamentos para el presente ni para el futuro.

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