

That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Halloween

Halloween is a festival celebrated today in almost every part of the world.

But did you know that the festival we now know as Halloween began in Ireland more than 3,000 years ago? Many of the customs such as dressing up, trick or treat and carving pumpkins all came from the old Irish traditions.



Many thousands of years ago in Ireland, Halloween was known as the festival of **Samhain (saw win)**, which is the Irish word for November. It was a very important festival. It was the day they celebrated their new year.

It also marked the end of summer and celebrated the harvesting of vegetables and fruit which would be picked and stored as food for the long winter ahead. They lit bonfires, which they gathered around and shared out fruit, nuts and vegetables.

31 October marked the end of the old year. It was believed that on this night, ghosts and spirits roamed around looking for people to take back with them to the land of the dead. So, people believed if you dressed up as a ghost or a witch then this would confuse the spirits into thinking you were, in fact, one of them. This is where today's tradition of dressing up for Halloween began.

Along with bonfires, lanterns made of turnips carved with a face, with a lit candle placed inside, were left outside the door to keep evil spirits away.

This tradition came about because of the old Irish legend of **Jack O Lantern**. This legend tells the story of a man named Jack who tried to trick the devil. When he died, he was not allowed enter heaven or hell. So, they say, to this day, he still roams the earth with just the light of a burning coal which he carries in a turnip.

Irish people who emigrated to America over the years, brought the Irish custom of Halloween with them. Turnips were not available in America, so they carved pumpkins instead. Today pumpkins are used at Halloween all over the world, including Ireland.



The tradition of children going from house to house on Halloween night for “**Trick or Treat**” followed by party games, first began in America in the 1930’s. However, it is believed that this tradition began many hundreds of years ago in Ireland when poor people dressed up at Halloween, calling to the houses of the rich, in the hope of being given food or other treats.

Remember if your children are going out to “Trick or Treat”, please make sure they are safe, especially if it is dark. Please ensure they carry a torch and wear bright colours or a hi-vis (high visibility) jacket so motorists can see them and remember, children should always be accompanied by an adult.



Halloween word search



See how many of these Halloween words you can find in the word search below.

Words are hidden → and ↓ and ↘

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. witch | 5. nuts | 9. barm brack |
| 2. ghost | 6. costume | 10. haunted house |
| 3. bonfire | 7. trick or treat | 11. skeleton |
| 4. pumpkin | 8. vampire | |

l n v c m b o n f i r e g h o s t o
z t x p u m p k i n w j l b l j l t
d u o l j p j k a s l d f a j q p s
f z t s r p t q n u t s g r g e a k
t r i c k o r t r e a t w m i v v e
o d r l c c d b a f c v x b e w j l
w n f w i t c h c s q o n r o o r e
b y m v x i o e w e w k o a h l e t
v a m p i r e f q z s g o c m h s o
t c o s t u m e n h z i j k n m k n
r n n m i m y y v i h t i k q q z d
o r z h a u n t e d h o u s e n g b

Words ending in “cian”



“Cian” sounds like “shan”. Usually only used for the name of people’s jobs.

beautician beau ti cian	electrician elec tri cian	optician op ti cian	dietician di e ti cian
magician ma gi cian	musician mu si cian	politician pol it i cian	technician tech ni cian

Tip: To learn these words, you need to practise them.

- Take **1 word every day**, break it into syllables or parts.
- Example: **musician**: 3 syllables (mu si cian).
- Then write the word in a sentence: My sister is a musician.

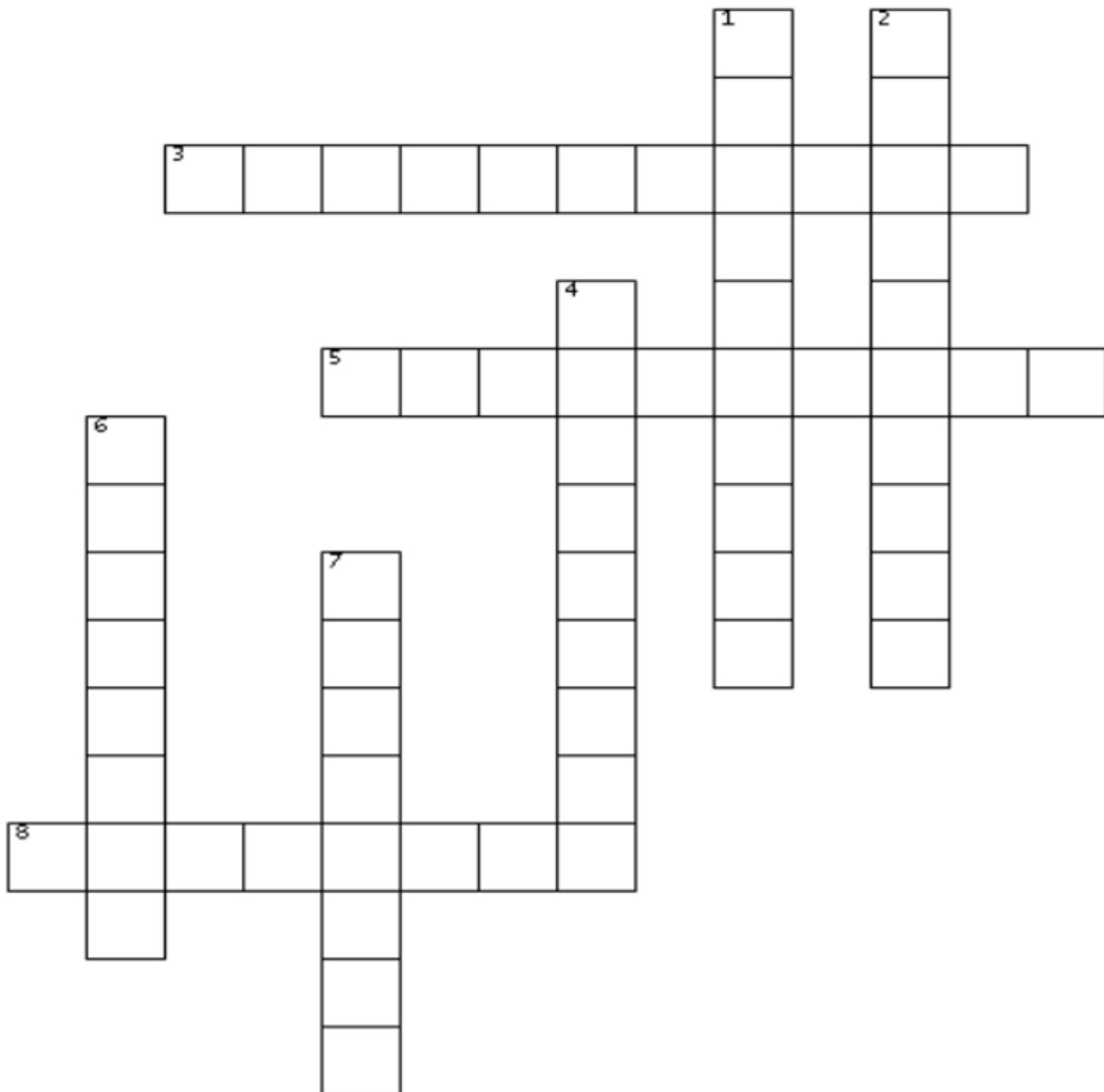
Fill in the blanks with words from the lists above.

1. A _____ will do your make-up for a special occasion.
2. I love playing music, I hope to become a _____ .
3. You will need to ask a qualified _____ to install the cooker.
4. I want to eat a better diet; I will get advice from a _____ .
5. I am interested in current affairs and politics; I might become a _____ .
6. I can do magic tricks, I am a _____ .
7. An _____ will check your eye health.
8. A _____ will check that equipment is working correctly.

Crossword



The answers are all words from the word list on previous page.



Across

- 3. I had to get this person to install sockets and lights in my house.
- 5. Someone who has been elected to government.
- 8. A person who performs magic.

Down

- 1. This person will fix different types of equipment.
- 2. I go to this person to get my make-up done.
- 4. This person advises me on the correct foods to eat.
- 6. I went to this person to get an eye test.
- 7. This person likes to play musical instruments.



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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