

Chatterbox #5 – Halloween

Transcript

- Harp: Hello everyone, this is Harp...
- Maura: And Maura...
- Harp: With the **Chatterbox** podcast!
- Maura: And this is the podcast at Culips where we chat about anything that's cultural or popular.
- Harp: Or fun and exciting like gossip and music.
- Maura: For sure! And if you want to see the transcript for this podcast or more explanations or quizzes, go to our website, Culips.com, and sign up for our Lipservice that has all the information in there.
- Harp: Exactly! So it is just C-U-L-I-P-S.com.
- Maura: Yup, that is our website.
- Harp: Exactly, and it is great, so you should go see it. So today we are going to talk about a really exciting day.
- Maura: It is a very fun day.
- Harp: I think we both love it.
- Maura: Yeah! **Halloween!**
- Harp: **Halloween**, exactly. So, **Halloween** is celebrated on October thirty-first (31st). Always the same day regardless of what day it is in the week.
- Maura: Yeah, the last day of October. It's become a pretty international holiday. I wonder if anyone out there celebrates **Halloween**.
- Harp: Yeah and maybe people do things a little bit differently.
- Maura: Yeah, the **costumes** are usually part of it or the **ghosts** and **witches** and scariness.

- Harp: Maybe there's different games you play. Write us! Tell us how you do it! So let's talk about North American **Halloween**. What was your favourite part of **Halloween**?
- Maura: Well, to be honest, when I was a kid my favourite part definitely had to be the candy.
- Harp: Yes. So how do you get candy for **Halloween**?
- Maura: Well, you have to **dress up** in a **costume**. You can choose whatever you like, could be something scary, like a witch or a ghost, but you can be a princess, or when I was a kid I was a punk in the eighties, you, know for probably five years in a row I **dressed up** as a punk, you know, fluorescent clothes, crazy spiked hair.
- Harp: Yeah, I know, I know what you are saying. I think most people use the same **costume** more than one time.
- Maura: What did you used to **dress up** as?
- Harp: My best **costume** was when I was a TV. It was awesome. I got this cardboard box and I cut out a piece for my head and then I put tin foil on the front and I had little antennas coming from my head. I think I have a picture that maybe I'll put on the website.
- Maura: Nice!
- Harp: It was the best **costume**!
- Maura : Awesome!
- Harp : Yeah it was very difficult to wear but it was awesome.
- Maura: So you get **dressed up** in any **costume** you want and then you walk around in your neighbourhood going to every door, ringing the doorbell and then you say...
- Maura and Harp: **TRICK OR TREAT!**
- Harp: Are we going to do the whole song?
- Maura: There is a song that we can sing and we will sing it for you. Are you ready?

- Harp: I am not really good at singing, so don't get mad at me.
- Maura: OK, ready?
- Harp: OK, I'm ready. One, two, three...
- Harp and Maura: **Trick or treat**, smell my feet. Give me something good to eat. Not too big, not too small, just the size of Montreal.
- Harp: Which is hilarious because we now live in Montreal!
- Maura: I know!
- Harp: But it is the same, I think, all across Canada.
- Maura: Just because it rhymes with the word "small."
- Harp: Small, Montreal. Yeah!
- Maura: It rhymes with "small," so we choose that city.
- Harp: Exactly. So, basically you sing the song. Well, most people make you sing the song, I would say.
- Maura: At least you say, "**trick or treat**." That's usually enough.
- Harp: Yup, so you ring the doorbell, you say "**trick or treat**" and then people give you candy.
- Maura: Yeah, it seems like a pretty good deal.
- Harp: Yeah, I know, you don't have to do that much work. Really you just walk around your neighbourhood, ring the doorbell and you get candy.
- Maura: Another thing that we do at **Halloween** is we make **jack-o-lanterns**.
- Harp: **Jack-o-lanterns**, I love them. So, basically it is a pumpkin that you have **carved out**, so you take all the seeds and all the insides out and then you **carve** a face on it and then you put a candle in it. Love it!
- Maura: Yeah, so on **Halloween** because we go door to door to get candy at night people put the **jack-o-lanterns** outside.

- Harp: Yeah, I think it is because not everyone gives candy. **Jack-o-lanterns** are a good way to know when people are going to give you candy.
- Maura: You're right. So, some people don't participate, so you don't go knocking on their door.
- Harp: Exactly, but if you have a **jack -o-lantern** you expect to give candy. You are expected for sure. And I always remember that, when I was young, if people gave a full chocolate bar, those are the houses that you go to more than one time. You know, change your **costume** if you can.
- Maura: Yeah for sure! And then there were some people who would give you something healthy like raisins.
- Harp: Or an apple.
- Maura: Yeah
- Harp: Who gives apples? I want candy.
- Maura: Yeah, those weren't popular.
- Harp: No, for sure. So some other games that you play for **Halloween**. They always talk about...
- Maura: **Bobbing for apples**.
- Harp: Yes, **bobbing for apples**. Did you play this ever?
- Maura: Maybe a couple times.
- Harp: Yeah, I played it when I was young, like maybe younger than 10 years old.
- Maura: Yeah, so what it is, is they get a really big tub full of water and then they put apples in the water and the apples float, but when you try to catch the apple with your arms behind your back and just your mouth, well, what happens, Harp?
- Harp: Umm, it's pretty funny because it's very difficult. You are putting your head in water, your head gets wet, your hair gets wet. It's really not very **hygienic**, which is maybe why people don't do it

anymore, but you are trying to get the apple and I never got it when I was young.

Maura: Yeah, it is really hard. Another thing that we have is **haunted houses**.

Harp: Yes, yes, and so sometimes it can even be just a room that you called a **haunted house**. I remember in my school, in my elementary school, they would make one classroom into the **haunted house**. So they would put things like grapes with no skin, like the peeled grapes and call them eyeballs and then a plate of spaghetti was brains. You know, make it scary and it would be dark and you didn't know where you were going.

Maura: Yeah, and so in **haunted houses** they always tried to scare you. They are dark with, maybe, people there chasing you, it is all for fun, but it is scary at the same time.

Harp: Yup, exactly. I think there were, like, houses, older-looking houses that everyone thought were haunted.

Maura: For sure. And so **Halloween** is mostly for kids, but then you get a bit older and you still celebrate sometimes.

Harp: Yeah, I think so. The last time I went **trick or treating** was when I was 18. So, it was too old but...

Maura: Usually people stop at around maybe 13, 14. Then it gets to be strange. But when you are older, people celebrate by having **costume parties** because people still like to **dress up** but then they just go to a bar or last year Robin had a **Halloween** party and it was really fun. Everyone **dressed up** in crazy **costumes**!

Harp: Unfortunately I was unable to go last year but I am trying to get him to have another **Halloween** party this year.

Maura: Yeah, we will get him to.

Harp: And maybe we can post some pictures and if you are out there listening and you are in Montreal maybe you can come. So I think that is about it for **Halloween**?

Maura: For sure!

Harp: So that about wraps it up for our Chatterbox this week.

Maura: If you are going to celebrate **Halloween, Happy Halloween!**

Harp: **Trick or treat!** Just joking.

Maura: So we will see you later. This has been Maura...

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: Bye!

Harp: Bye everyone!

Detailed Explanation

Halloween!

A simple explanation of the history of **Halloween**:

Many years ago, it was believed that on the last day of October, the dead came to earth. People wore **costumes** to protect themselves from the spirits. If you want more information, I will post a link in our blog to an interesting video about the history.

Today, most people don't know the history because the modern celebrations are so different from their beginnings. Some religious people do not celebrate **Halloween** because of the evil history.

Halloween is always October 31st. The day of the week changes every year. This year **Halloween** is on a Friday!

Halloween can also be written like "Hallowe'en." Nowadays, we usually don't use the apostrophe ('). The name comes from "All Hallows Eve" and over time it changed into **Halloween**. "Eve" is the night before another important day. We also have Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. All Hallows Day (or All Saints Day) is November 1st and that makes **Halloween** an "eve."

Costume/dressing up

A **costume** is the clothes you wear on **Halloween** that disguise you. A "disguise" is some clothing and accessories that make you look different. People may not know who you really are.

"**To dress up**" is to wear a **costume**. On **Halloween** people **dress up** as many different things.



A clown

A traditional **costume** (not just for **Halloween**) is a clown **costume**. A clown **costume** is big colourful clothes, funny shoes and makeup on your face. Clowns also usually have red noses.

Here is a list of some traditional **Halloween costumes**:

- Witch (an evil woman who wears all black)
- Ghost (a spirit, someone or something not alive)
- Vampire (a man who sucks the blood of humans)
- Fairy (a woman with wings and a magic wand)
- Clown (a silly man or woman with a red nose)
- Devil
- Cowboy



A witch

But remember, on **Halloween** you can be anything or anyone. Any **costume** is acceptable. You can be a famous person. You could **dress up** to look like Tom Cruise. You don't even need to be a person. Like Harp said in this episode, she wore a television **costume**. She **dressed up** as a TV. Any **costume** is acceptable on **Halloween**.

“**To dress up**” can also mean to wear fancy or formal clothes, like to a wedding or a job interview. When you **dress up**, you wear something different from what you normally do.

Trick or Treat

“**Trick or treat**” is a popular expression at **Halloween**. Children say this when they go to their neighbours' homes to ask for candy.

A child rings the doorbell or knocks on the door and when the neighbour answers, the child says, “**trick or treat.**” This means that the child would like some candy.

Usually the neighbour then gives the child some candy and puts it right into his or her bag. Sometimes the neighbour may ask the child to do a **trick**. This is rare but if the child knows the neighbour, they might try to have fun with each other.

A usual **trick** is to sing a song or tell a joke. After you do the **trick**, then they will give you some candy. The candy is the **treat**.

“**To trick or treat**” can be a verb too. You can go **trick or treating** in your neighbourhood.

Not every house participates in **Halloween**. Some people are not home or do not give out candy. The houses with the lights on and **Halloween** decorations will

give out candy. If the lights are off, then that house is probably not going to give out candy.



Jack-o-lantern and carving

A **jack-o-lantern** is a pumpkin that has a face in it. The face has been cut out and there is a candle inside.

To make the **jack-o-lantern** you use a knife and cut open the pumpkin. You take out all the seeds and then you cut a face in the front of the pumpkin. This is “**to carve**” a pumpkin.

“**To carve**” is to cut something and to make a form. You can also take a piece of wood

and use a knife to cut the wood. You can **carve** the wood into a small statue. You make a new form by cutting.

The word “**jack-o-lantern**” can be broken apart. A “**lantern**” is a small object with some kind of light inside it. It is protected from the wind and rain, but the light comes out and helps us to see.

When we put the candle in the pumpkin, it is like a **lantern**. And the word “**jack**” probably comes from the face on the pumpkin. “**Jack**” is traditional boy’s name.

Bobbing for apples

“**Bobbing for apples**” is a traditional **Halloween** game. In this game, there is a big tub or bucket filled with water. And there are also apples floating in the water.

Each person plays individually. Their hands are behind their backs and they try with only their mouth and teeth to catch an apple. It is quite difficult and so it is quite fun to see someone try to catch an apple this way. Their face often gets very wet.

This game is not practiced much nowadays, probably for **hygienic** reasons like Harp mentioned. If something is **hygienic** it is healthy and safe for the body. It is clean. **Bobbing for apples** is not **hygienic**.

People now do not like sharing food and so **bobbing for apples** is less common. A more **hygienic** version of the **bobbing for apples** game is hanging an apple from a string. Then people have to try and catch the apple with their teeth in the air.

Haunted House

A **haunted house** is scary place to be! A “**haunted house**” can be a house or a room that tries to scare people and make them feel afraid.

“**Haunted**” means that a ghost or spirit lives there. If something is **haunted** it is believed that something dead inhabits the space and is causing trouble.

Seeing a strange face in the mirror or lights turning on and off by themselves are two examples of things that can happen in a **haunted house**.

If something is **haunting** you, it means that something is bothering you and following you.

So a **haunted house** for **Halloween** celebrations is not really **haunted**. It is a fake place arranged to scare people for fun. Harp said that in the **haunted houses** she visited there were grapes supposed to be eyeballs or spaghetti supposed to be brains. This is fake, but fun!

A **haunted house** is always very dark so it is easy to believe that grapes are eyeballs because you can't see very well. Other scary things in **haunted houses** include people **dressed up** in **costumes** who chase you or scenes with blood and knives in graveyards.

Costume Party

When you are too old to go **trick or treating** (usually after age 14), you can still have a **costume party**. A **costume party** is simply a **party** when you wear a **costume**. Kids have **costume parties** and adults have them too.

This kind of **party** can happen at any time of the year but are most popular close to **Halloween**. This year we are going to have a **super Halloween costume party** for our friends and any international students in Montreal. If you are in Montreal, check out the details on our website and come celebrate **Halloween** with us.

We promise we won't scare you!

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. When is Halloween?**

- a) October 13
- b) October 30
- c) October 31
- d) November 1

2. What do you say if you want candy after someone opens the door?

- a) Treat or trick
- b) Trick or treat
- c) I want candy
- d) Halloween

3. What is another way to say “to wear a costume”?

- a) to dress up
- b) to costume down
- c) to dress down
- d) to costume up

4. Ghosts, witches and clowns are all examples of what?

- a) things in a haunted house
- b) costumes
- c) Halloween games
- d) what you wear to a job interview

5. What are some Halloween activities?

- a) eating apples and raisins
- b) haunted houses and dressing up for a job interview
- c) bobbing for apples and bobbing grapes
- d) bobbing for apples and haunted houses

6. Jon: Let's have a party for Halloween!
Shawn: OK, we can ask all our friends to dress up.
Jon: Perfect! We will have _____.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) a costume party
- b) a party costume
- c) a haunted party
- d) a haunted house

Answers: 1.c 2.b 3.a 4.b 5.d 6.a