

**Listen** to the following extract and fill in the missing words

<http://www.kico4u.de/english/topicotw/wav/halloween.mp3>

### **When is Halloween?**

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saint's Day, a **famous** and **historic** Christian feast day. Another name for All Saint's day is All Hallows' Day, as 'hallow' is an old word for 'saint'.

The evening before, the evening of **31<sup>st</sup>** is All Hallows' Eve, or Hallowe'en.

The **custom** of dressing up as **witches** or **ghosts** on that evening dates back to much older times, before Christianity.

### **What is Halloween?**

People used to **dress up** on Halloween because in the old days winter was a **scary** time. They didn't always have enough food and many people were **afraid** of the dark. They all **believe** that ghost came back to earth on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

So they were really scared of meeting a ghost if they went out. To solve this problem people wore **masks** when they left their homes, so that ghosts didn't think they were one of them. People also placed a bowl of food outside their homes to please the ghosts and in the hope that they wouldn't go into their homes.

### **What do people do on Halloween?**

Well, we hollow out a **pumpkin**. Then we cut a face into one side of it. Then it's ready and we can put a candle into it and wait until it gets dark.



These lanterns are called 'jack-o'-lantern', but why? An Irish legend says that these lanterns were named after a man called 'Jack'. He couldn't enter **heaven** he was a miser. However, because he had played jokes on the devil he wasn't allowed into **hell** either! So he had to walk around the earth with his lantern until 'Judgement Day'.

The children also go around the houses getting into mischief, or as it is known in England, '**Trick or Treat.**' They dress up as witches or ghosts and knock on doors and demand a treat (money or food).