

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. Children dress up as witches, ghosts and other scary creatures. They go from door to door for “Trick or Treat” in the hope of being given sweets, nuts, fruit and other goodies. Halloween games are played and sometimes bonfires are lit. Pumpkins of all sizes are carved into faces and are placed outside houses along with other weird and wonderful scary decorations.



Trick or Treat

But did you know that the festival we now know as Halloween began in Ireland more than 3,000 years ago? Halloween, which was known as the festival of Samhain (saw win), the Irish word for November, was a very important festival celebrated in Ireland many thousands of years ago. This was the day that marked the beginning of a new year.



Bonfire

It marked the end of summer and celebrated the harvesting of crops of vegetables and fruit which would be gathered and stored for the long winter ahead. In fact, they believed that crops not picked before 1 November should not be eaten. People gathered around bonfires and shared out fruit, nuts and vegetables.

31 October marked the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. It was believed that on this night, ghosts and spirits roamed around looking for people to take back with them to the world of the dead. So, people believed if you dressed up as a ghost 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 blacksmith 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. In fact, it is thought that in America 700 million dollars will be spent on buying pumpkins for Halloween this year.



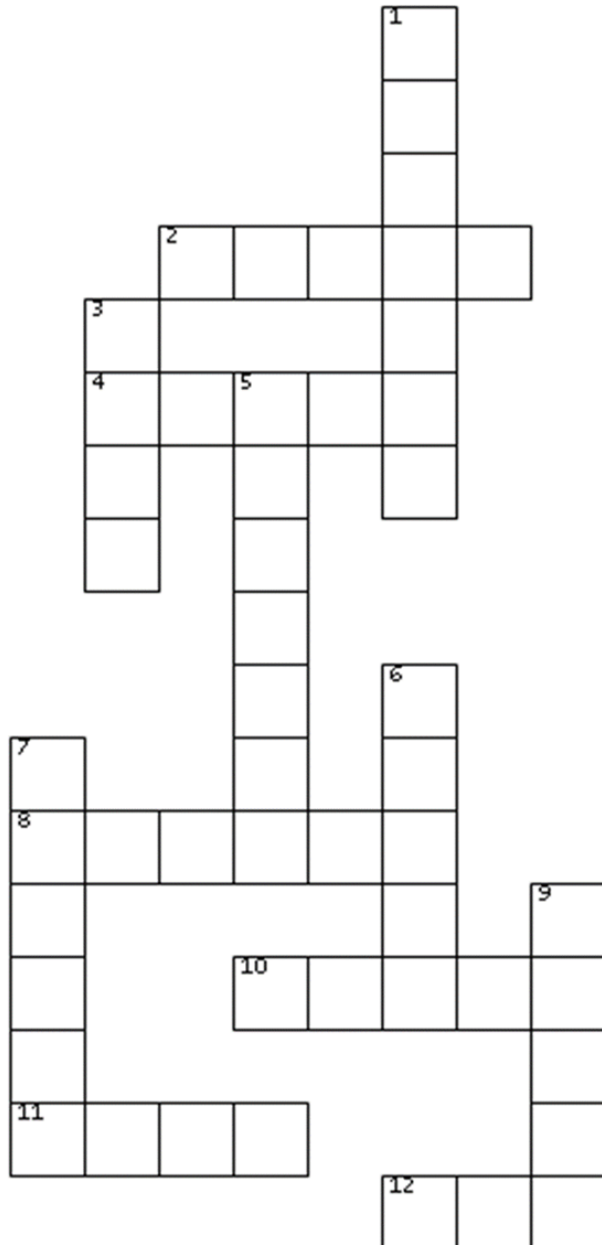
Carving a pumpkin

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 again 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 crossword



Clues

Across

2. People put red on their faces and pretend it is this. (5)



4. Snap _____, a game played at Halloween. (5)



8. The colour of a pumpkin. (6)

10. She wears a pointy hat and travels on a broom. (5)



11. Some people give children fruit and _____. (4)



12. A black flying creature. (3)



Down

1. Halloween is held on the last day of this month. (7)

3. People wear a scary one of these on their face to frighten you. (4)



5. You carve a face on this. (7)



6. Trick or _____. (5)

7. Found in the graveyard. (6)



9. People put a white sheet over their head and pretend to be this (5)



ick / ic



Words with one syllable/ beat end in ick		
kick	brick	thick
lick	click	trick
pick	flick	quick
sick	stick	wick

Words with 2 or more syllables/beats end in ic			
attic (att ic)	comic (com ic)	public (pub lic)	mechanic (mech an ic)
clinic (clin ic)	picnic (pic nic)	plastic (plas tic)	athletic (ath let ic)
electric (e lec tric)	magic (mag ic)	traffic (traff ic)	fantastic (fan tas tic)
garlic (gar lic)	music (mu sic)	panic (pan ic)	romantic (ro man tic)

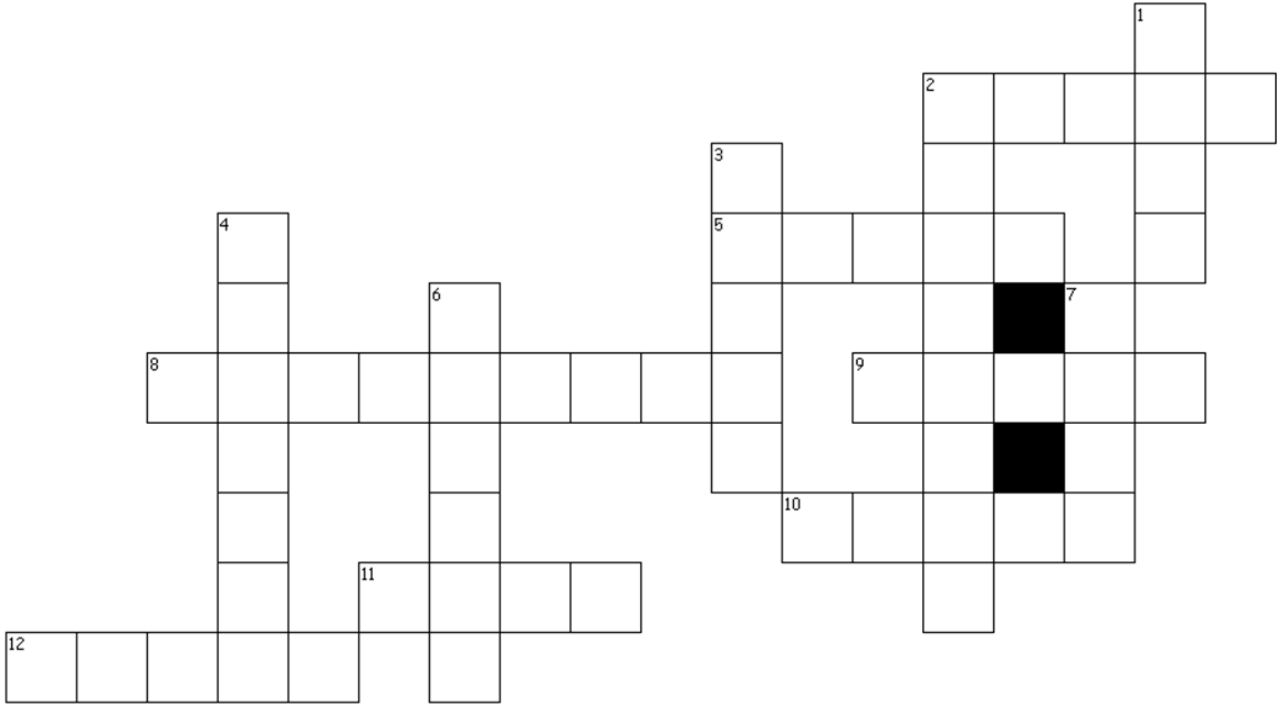
Fill in the blanks with words from the lists above.

1. I will go to see the doctor at the _____.
2. I like to eat _____ bread with my pizza.
3. I was delayed because there was a lot of _____ on the road.
4. The _____ said my car was in need of repair.
5. I love to listen to _____ when I am relaxing.
6. If tomorrow is nice, we can bring a _____ to the park.
7. She plays a lot of sport, so she is very _____.
8. Will you plug in the _____ kettle please?
9. We must return all our _____ bottles to get a refund.
10. That's _____ news, I'm delighted for you.
11. It disappeared suddenly, just like _____!
12. The _____ is a room at the very top of the house.

Crossword



The answers are all words from the lists on **page 4**.



Clues

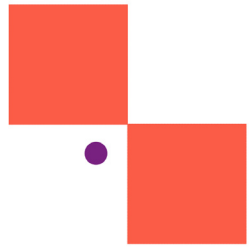
Across

- 2. We like to sing along with this. (5)
- 5. Opposite of thin. (5)
- 8. Another word for amazing. (9)
- 9. Stay calm and don't _____. (5)
- 10. A magician does this. (5)
- 11. Another word for to choose. (4)
- 12. Another word for fast. (5)

Down

- 1. Another word for being ill. (4)
- 2. A person who can fix your car. (8)
- 3. A walking _____. (5)
- 4. Today most things are made from this material. (7)
- 6. A strong smelling vegetable. (6)
- 7. What you do with a football. (4)

Maths



Using a calculator to work out a percentage.

A percentage means a part of something and is written as %.

A quick way to work out a % is to use a calculator.

Example:

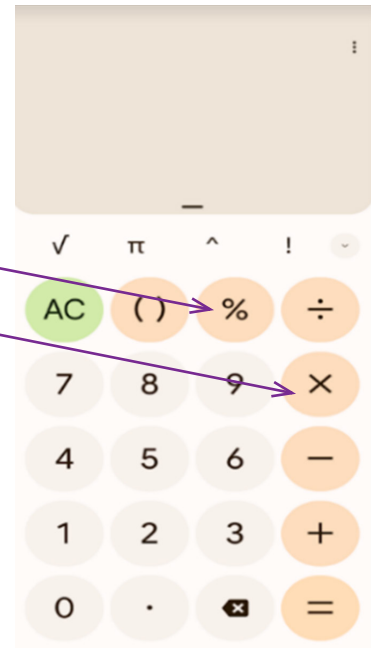
There is a sale on in my local electrical shop. There is 20% off everything today only.

I want to buy a new TV (television). The price of the TV is €450.

I need to find what is 20% of €450, to see how much I will save if I buy the TV today.

Using my calculator:

Press **450 x 20**, then **press the % button**, my answer is 90.



There is €90 off the price of the TV. The new price will be €360.

Try these using your calculator

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1. | 20% of 1200 = _____ | 6. | 5% of 200 = _____ |
| 2. | 10% of 50 = _____ | 7. | 12% of 500 = _____ |
| 3. | 25% of 560 = _____ | 8. | 30% of 90 = _____ |
| 4. | 15% of 500 = _____ | 9. | 13% of 800 = _____ |
| 5. | 21% of 1000 = _____ | 10. | 50% of 12,000 = _____ |

Answers

q1. 240 q2. 5 q3. 140 q4. 75 q5. 210
q6. 10 q7. 60 q8. 27 q9. 104 q10. 6000

Notes



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 Education and Training Board.



National Adult Literacy Agency
Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

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