



SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

The **Podcast** That Will Help You **Speak** English Fluently.
With No Grammar and No Textbooks!

Episode #229

Halloween 2022



Hi! I am very happy today because I have a huge announcement! A **new course** is now available to help you with your pronunciation. And **it's for all levels!**

Visit: PronunciationCourse.com and get it now for a special price.

I repeat: PronunciationCourse.com

In today's episode:

- I'll be talking about one of the most celebrated holidays in the United States: **Halloween**.
- After that, you'll practice your **speaking** with a new mini-story while enjoying my new Question & Answer story.

Very well. Let's get started!

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the last day of October. I would say it's very popular because everybody's excited about it, especially children.

The word Halloween comes from an old English expression, "All Hallows' Eve," and it means **the day before All Saints' Day**.

Children of all ages really love Halloween because they can **dress up** in **funny costumes** and knock on their neighborhood doors, shouting, "Trick or Treat!". The neighbors usually give them candies.

The meaning of the phrase "Trick or Treat" is interesting. In this context, "**treat**" means **getting the candies**, and "**trick**" means the **consequence of not getting the sweets**. It's like an innocent **threat** children make. Of course, kids get really excited when they knock on strangers' doors in their neighborhood.

Since Halloween originated as a celebration connected with evil spirits, the most common symbols are **witches flying on broomsticks**, **ghosts**, **skeletons**, **black cats**, etc. The **black color** is one of the traditional Halloween colors.

Get more lessons at: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

Of course, **pumpkins** are also a Halloween symbol. I'm sure you've seen them in movies. People empty pumpkins and put a candle inside to make a lamp.

How do you make a **Halloween pumpkin**?

- The first step is hollowing out the pumpkin.
- After that, we use a keyhole we saw to cut the hole.
- When using a **candle** for illumination, you can cut the hole in the pumpkin's **top**.
- For **electric lights**, make a hole **in the bottom or side** so you can hide the cord.

The Halloween pumpkin is called Jack-O'-Lantern. It's common to see jack-o'-lanterns on doorstep decorations before and on Halloween.

The name comes from an **Irish legend** about a man named Jack. He was so **ungenerous** that when he died, he couldn't enter Heaven, but he couldn't go to Hell either because he had **told jokes about the Devil**. As a result, Jack had to walk and walk with a lantern until the **Day of Judgment**.

Here's what a typical family does at Halloween:

- They decorate their home. Americans spend about 5 billion dollars every year.
- They buy costumes. A costume is not cheap. It can cost \$30 or more.
- They buy plenty of candy, and of course, they eat it.
- Kids go "trick or treating." In most towns, it's only allowed from 3 pm until 5 pm because it gets dark quickly.

Very well, now you know a bit more about this beautiful holiday. Maybe next time, you'll carve your own Halloween pumpkin and **celebrate Halloween** just **like an American!**

MINI-STORY

(Practice your speaking)

Get more lessons at: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

Ok, let's move on to the next section.

Here, I'll use the **Question & Answer** technique. This is the perfect lesson for automatizing your spoken English. This is how it works:

- I'll give you some information. (A phrase or two).
- I'll ask simple questions.
- After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question! Just try to give an easy and short answer, not a complex one.
- After you answer, I'll give you a correct answer.

This process will continue, and little by little, I'll be telling a story using questions and answers. In this mini-story, you are Jack, and you answer the questions.

This mini-story will be a bit more difficult than usual, but don't worry, just repeat it more times, and it will be fine.

I'll be using some words that you may not know:

Miserly: Someone who has a strong wish to have money and hates spending it.

Funnily enough: Strangely, surprisingly.

Fate: Destiny.

To wander: To walk slowly without a destination.

Ok, let's get started!

My name's Jack, and I walk every night in the World of Spirits.

Are you, Jack?

Yes, I'm Jack.

Do you walk every day or every night?

Every night. I walk every night.

When do you walk?

At night. I walk at night in the World of Spirits.

Do you walk in the World of Elves?

No, no. I don't walk in the World of Elves. I walk in the World of Spirits.

Get more lessons at: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

What's your name?

Jack. My name's Jack.

Ok Jack, so, you walk in that World of Spirits on Tuesdays and Fridays, right?

No, no. I don't walk on Tuesdays and Fridays. I walk every night.

And where do you walk?

In the World of Spirits. I walk there.

When I died, I couldn't enter Heaven because I was very miserly.

Did you die?

Yes, I did. I died. I'm not alive.

Are you alive or dead?

Dead. I'm dead. I am a soul.

Could you enter Heaven?

No, I couldn't. I couldn't enter Heaven.

Who couldn't enter Heaven?

Me. Myself. I couldn't enter Heaven. I was very miserly.

Why couldn't you enter Heaven?

Because I was miserly, I liked having money, and I hated spending it.

Did you enter Heaven?

No, I didn't. I didn't enter Heaven because I was miserly.

Funnily enough, I couldn't enter Hell either because I had made some jokes about the Devil.

You couldn't enter Heaven, but could you enter Hell?

No, neither. I couldn't enter Hell either. I couldn't enter Heaven nor Hell.

Was it "funnily enough" that you couldn't enter Hell?

Yes, it was "funnily enough." It was strange or surprising; I couldn't go there.

Didn't you enter Hell because you had made some jokes about the Devil?

Yes. I didn't enter Hell because I had made some jokes about the Devil.

Had you made jokes about yourself?

Get more lessons at: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com

No, no. I hadn't made jokes about myself. I had made jokes about the Devil.

Had you made stories about the Devil before you died?

Not stories. I had made jokes about the Devil before I died.

Why didn't you enter Hell?

Because I had made jokes about the Devil, that was the reason.

So, my fate is to wander with a lantern until the Day of Judgment.

Is your fate to sell lanterns?

No, no. That's not my fate. My fate is to wander with a lantern until the Day of Judgment.

Till when do you have to wander?

Till the Day of Judgment. I have to wander till the Day of Judgment.

Do you have to wander with a lantern?

Yes. I have to wander with a lantern.

What do you have to bring with you? A lantern? A torch?

A lantern. Not a torch. I have to bring with me a lantern.

Do you have to wander or run?

Wander. I don't have to run. I am not in a hurry. I have to wander. That's my fate.

Great! We're finished with our short practice. Answering many simple questions can improve your speaking, just like talking in real life.

I have a huge announcement! A **new course** is now available to help you with your pronunciation. And **it's for all levels!**

Visit: PronunciationCourse.com and get it now for a special price. I repeat: PronunciationCourse.com



Georgiana

founder of
[SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](https://speakenglishpodcast.com)