

Socializing 13: Halloween and Thanksgiving Day

Practice 1 | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

- **Thanksgiving (Day)** - a public holiday that is celebrated to give thanks to God for the harvest and for health
- **apple bobbing** - also known as **bobbing for apples** is a game often played at Halloween. It involves trying to catch apples with your teeth (use of hands is forbidden) from a bowl filled with water
- **trick-or-treat** - customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children go dressed in costumes from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the questions, "trick or treat?" The word "trick" refers to "threat" to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given
- **say grace** - to say a prayer prior to or after eating, thanking God for the food and other blessings
- **mother of (number)** - a mother that has that number of kids (e.g. mother of five – a mother with five kids)
- **unkempt** - not well cared for; messy or untidy
- **deceptively** - in a way or to an extent that gives a misleading impression (e.g. deceptively strong - appears strong, but in fact it is not)
- **pay off** - to turn out to be profitable, effective; to be worth it (in this case)
- **cast a spell on someone** - to use words that are thought to be magic and have the power to change, or influence someone or something

Practice 2 | Dialogue

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Muriel's company decided to hold a Halloween Party this year.

Everybody is required to wear a costume.

Muriel : Hey Susan, what are you supposed to be?

Susan : Oh hey! "Pocahontas." I am just an overworked **mother of five**. Just kidding, I am a scary witch.

You should have seen me after **Thanksgiving** last year; I looked worse and more exhausted.

Muriel : Love your humor. How did Thanksgiving go?

Susan : Why thank you. I spent it with my boyfriend back then at his parents' place. It was the first time

I had to **say grace**. His father didn't like how I said grace, his mother kept saying how she could've

cooked the turkey better. A big fight started at one point while we were **apple bobbing**. Anyway,

where is your John Smith?

Muriel : Still hasn't showed up yet. Have been waiting for him for a long time.

Susan : He'll show up eventually, don't worry.

Muriel : Did it take you long to get your hair to look like that?

Susan : It's **deceptively** easy to look **unkempt**. I spent about two or three hours working on it, but it sure

paid off.

Muriel : I spent a lot of time on my kid's costumes too. He wanted to be an alien and had a very specific

view of what he wanted to look like. Then he went out for **trick-or-treat**.

Susan : At least I don't have kids to worry about that. Anyway, I think I am going to try to mingle and see

if I can find someone worthy of **casting a spell on**.

Muriel : Ok, have fun.

Susan : You too.

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. What was Susan costumed as?
2. Was it easy or not for Susan to make her hair?
3. Why was making the costume for Muriel's child so time-consuming?
4. How did Susan's Thanksgiving go? Explain your answer.

Practice 3 | Role-Play

Directions: Have a role-play with your teacher in the following situation.

Situation

You are at a Halloween party at the office. Try to mingle with your co-workers.

Expressions:

- Who/What are you supposed to be?
- That is a nice costume.
- Would you like to go **bobbing for apples**?
- Efforts pay-off
- Deceptively...

Practice 4 | Discussion

Directions: Discuss these topics and exchange thoughts with your teacher.

1. Does your company hold Halloween parties?
2. Have you ever been to a Halloween party or a Thanksgiving dinner?
3. What are your opinions on these two celebrations?
4. Who would you like to dress up as, if you were to go to a Halloween Party?
5. Is there any particular activity or custom like Halloween or Thanksgiving in your country?