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Materials for language learning

MORGAN AND THE DAY OF LITTLE HORRORS

Halloween-themed reading lesson B1/B1+

Warm-up

1. What do you think about Halloween?
2. Do you enjoy Halloween as an adult, or do you prefer to skip it? Why? How do you usually spend that day?
3. Have you ever had an unexpected or funny “Halloween scare” as an adult (doorbell, work call, neighbour prank)?



Vocabulary



1. sigh	A. Something enjoyable, often a snack or reward
2. awkwardly	B. A little bit, not very much
3. slightly	C. Slightly embarrassed or uncomfortable in movement or manner
4. block (city)	D. A feeling of reassurance and comfort after worry or fear
5. to blink (screen)	E. To make a short vibrating sound, usually from a phone or device
6. convinced	F. A polite way to tell someone they can take or use something freely
7. a treat	G. A short exhalation of air, often showing relief, tiredness, or frustration
8. help yourself	H. The Halloween tradition where children visit houses asking for candy
9. trick-or-treat	I. To look quickly or secretly at something
10. to buzz	J. Certain that something is true or will happen
11. to peek	K. To smile widely, often showing amusement or happiness
12. relief	L. To flash on and off quickly, like a notification or light on a device
13. to grin	M. A section of a street surrounded by intersections; often used to describe city streets

Part 1 - The First Fright



It was Halloween, but for Morgan, it felt more like “The Horror of Everyday Life.” He was leaving for work in a rush when a terrifying thought hit: “Did I close the door?”



His heart started racing. Images of an open door and thieves walking in filled his head. With a deep sigh, Morgan turned back. Halfway down the corridor, he met his neighbour, Bea, who smiled and asked, “Forget something again?” Morgan grinned awkwardly. “Just my peace of mind.” The door was, of course, locked. It always was.



Part 1 - The First Fright

What things do you check before leaving?



Part 2 - Office Horrors

The morning didn't get any easier. There was no parking space near the office. Morgan circled the block twice before finally squeezing into a spot that looked slightly illegal.

Once he sat down, the inbox was full, coffee was gone, and the printer decided it was the perfect day to jam. As Morgan tried to fix it, his screen blinked with a message from the boss: "Can you join me for a quick call?"

The words looked innocent, but Morgan's heart raced faster than during any horror movie. Luckily, it was only about the new project – not the kind of "we need to talk" that haunts office workers' dreams.



Part 2 - Office Horrors

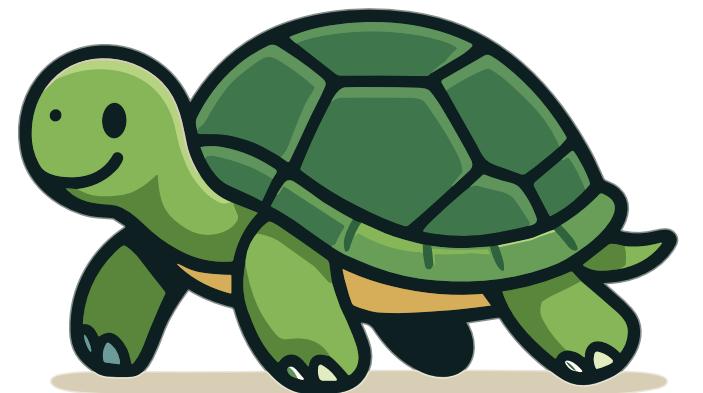
What kind of messages or calls make you feel nervous at work?



Part 3 - The Slow Walkers

After surviving the call, Morgan left the office, ready to enjoy the quiet evening ahead. But the city had other plans.

It was dark, crowded, and full of people who apparently had all the time in the world to walk painfully slowly – right in front of him. By the time Morgan reached his car, he was half convinced this was the universe's way of testing his patience.



Part 3 - The Slow Walkers

What everyday situations make you feel like you're in a horror movie?



Part 4 - Home, Sweet (and Quiet) Home

When Morgan finally got home, the first real treat of the evening awaited him – his favourite parking spot, right in front of the building. A small victory!

He left a bowl of sweets by the door with a little note: “Help yourself! Happy Halloween!” Then he switched off the lights and settled on the sofa with a blanket, pretending not to be home. Outside, the sound of excited trick-or-treaters filled the air. Inside, Morgan smiled and thought, “Perfect. Just me, silence, and no doorbells.”



Part 4 - Home, Sweet (and Quiet) Home

Do you enjoy Halloween or prefer to hide from it like Morgan? Why?



Part 5 - The Final Fright

Just as Morgan started to relax, his phone buzzed. A message from an unknown number: “I know you’re hiding in there.”

Morgan froze. “What?!” He peeked through the curtains – empty street. But then came a knock at the door – this time followed by a familiar voice:

“Come on, open up! I brought marshmallows and a VHS. Retro horror night?”

It was Bea. Morgan laughed in relief and opened the door. “You almost gave me a heart attack.”

“Happy Halloween,” Bea said, grinning.

Morgan smiled. “You too – but next year, we’re watching a comedy.”



Part 5 - The Final Fright

If your neighbour showed up with marshmallows and a movie unexpectedly, would you be scared, happy, or both?

What's your idea of a perfect quiet evening after a long day?



Imagine a New Celebration

1. If you could create a new celebration or holiday, what would it be? How would people celebrate it?
2. Would this holiday be more about fun, food, surprises, or relaxation? Why?
3. How could adults enjoy this holiday differently than children? Give examples.
4. Would you prefer to have decorations, costumes, or treats as part of the celebration? Why?
5. Could technology play a role in your holiday (apps, messages, online parties)? How?
6. Would you rather spend your new holiday quietly at home, like Morgan, or going out to celebrate?



Let's talk!

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1. What is the funniest or most awkward thing that has ever happened to you during a celebration or holiday?
2. Do you prefer quiet days off at home or meeting friends and going out? Why?
3. Have you ever felt stressed or worried about hosting guests or preparing for a holiday? How did you deal with it?
4. If you could spend a day completely free of worries, what would you do?
5. What's your favorite snack or treat during celebrations? Do you eat it alone or share it with others?
6. Have you ever made a small "white lie" to avoid embarrassment or awkward situations during celebrations? How did it feel?



Answer key

- 1.G
- 2.C
- 3.B
- 4.M
- 5.L
- 6.J
- 7.A
- 8.F
- 9.H
- 10.E
- 11.I
- 12.D
- 13.K



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