Halloween 2025

Source: https://www.history.com/articles/history-of-halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31, and Halloween 2025 will occur on Friday, October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

What is the History of Halloween?

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built large sacred bonfires, where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.
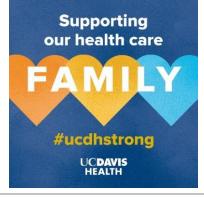
When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By A.D. 43, the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that the Romans ruled Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of bobbing for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

How Did Halloween Start in America?

The celebration of Halloween was extremely limited in colonial New England because of the rigid Protestant belief systems there. Halloween was more commonly recognized in Maryland and the southern colonies.

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October 2025 Calendar

ADHD Awareness Month
Global Diversity Awareness Month

2 – International Day of Non-Violence

5 – World Communion Sunday (Catholicism)

5-11 – World Mental Illness Awareness Week

6 – National Child Health Day (US)

6 – Sukkot (Judaism)

10 – Inclusion Day (International)

11 – World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

12 – Pastor Appreciation Day (Christianity)

19-25 – Healthcare Quality Week (US)

20 – Diwali (Hinduism)

24 – World Polio Day

26 – National Transgender Children Day (US)

29 – World Stroke Day

31 – Halloween (US)

As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups and Native Americans meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," which were public events held to celebrate the harvest. Neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance and sing.

Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the 19th century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally.

How Are Interpreters Using AI in 2025?
Source: https://slator.com/how-are-interpreters-using-ai-in-2025/

Previous research from Slator has noted a tendency towards slower adoption of AI tools for interpreting compared to text translation. Notably, a limited number of AI tools have been developed specifically for interpreting applications.

However, data from Slator's 2025 linguist survey, featured in the 2025 Language Industry Market Report, shows linguists are now using AI tools to assist them in interpreting tasks.

Running in April and May 2025, the survey collected responses from 561 linguists. Among respondents, 10% reported that interpreting was their most frequently performed service in the previous 12 months.

The survey found that 55% of interpreters reported using AI tools for their interpreting work in the same time period, compared to 76% of translators who reported doing so. However, It should be acknowledged that only 53 interpreters responded to this question, while 336 translators responded to it.

When asked how they were using AI in their practice, 19% of interpreters reported "look[ing] up terminology during interpreting delivery." This was by far the most common response, followed by "extract[ing] named entities and key terms from reference materials," which was reported by 8% of the surveyed interpreters.

AI Adoption by Interpreters in 2025

Responses to the question: How have you used AI in your interpreting in the last 12 months?

AI in Interpreting Use Case ▼	% of interpreters
Perform machine translation during interpreting delivery	6%
Perform AI Q&A with reference materials and background materials during interpreting delivery	2%
Other	4%
Obtain summaries from written, audio, and video reference / background materials	6%
Look up terminology during interpreting delivery	19%
Generate synthetic podcasts or audio recordings based on reference materials, to use as training or preparation tools	2%
Extract named entities and key terms from reference materials	8%
Access real-time transcripts during interpreting delivery	6%
Access chat summaries during interpreting delivery	4%

53 linguists responded to this question, with the option to select one answer from a provided list and to indicate additional use cases under "Other". Of the two respondents that selected "Other", one cited "All of the above", and one cited "Research for the assignment topic when reference and background materials are not provided".

Table: Slator • Source: Slator

As language AI tools become more accurate and reliable, a more widespread use of AI in interpreting may be expected. At the same time, wider adoption of these tools may come with certain risks. The Slator Pro Guide: AI in Interpreting, published in January 2025, highlights some of these potential risks in certain settings.

For example, using automatic speech recognition (ASR) to generate real-time transcripts introduces an added visual input for interpreters during a session, potentially increasing their cognitive load.

The use of AI assistants like ChatGPT or Gemini for live-term research may not comply with clients' confidentiality requirements.

Despite the current limitations, some interpreters are seeing improved productivity from their use of AI tools. For example, in episode #235 of SlatorPod Katharine Allen, Director of Language Industry Learning at Boostlingo, stated, "as an interpreter and trainer, the level of productivity advancement, and the ability to hone my skills that these tools give is off the charts already."

UC Davis Health Medical Interpreters Celebrate International Interpreter/Translator Day

Every day at UC Davis Health, a crucial connection is made—not just with words, but with understanding. On International Interpreter/Translator Day, September 30, we honor the professionals who forge that connection: our interpreters.

With courage and compassion, they step into complex and often sensitive conversations, ensuring every patient's voice is heard and every provider's guidance is clear. Their work is a cornerstone of equity, transforming a potentially confusing experience into one of trust and healing. As research shows, their presence significantly improves patient outcomes and reduces clinical errors.

To our interpreters: thank you for your unwavering dedication, skill, and humanity. You do more than translate words; you connect worlds. Your voice makes a difference every single day.

Happy Interpreter/Translator Day to our dedicated language professionals!

And congratulations to the department on the 40 years of its operation!