

C1-C2 English Listening Worksheet

Halloween Nights: Inside a Haunted Prison Festival

28 October 2026

Haunted Attraction Network - 2025 Interview (approx. 3:20)

Inside a former Philadelphia prison, a Halloween attraction has become a festival of haunted houses, live entertainment, historical tours and unexpected experiences. Watch the director explain how the event has changed - and what visitors can choose to face.

Before your lesson: Watch the video as homework, answer the questions and complete the vocabulary tasks. Prepare ideas for the discussion.

[Watch the Halloween Nights video on YouTube](#)

Listening Comprehension

Answer using information from the interview. Write short answers in your own words.

No.	Listening question and answer space
1	Name three activities visitors can enjoy at Halloween Nights apart from the haunted houses. _____ _____
2	How long did Terror Behind the Walls run, and what was its format like? _____
3	What happened in 2020 that allowed the organisers to rethink the event, and what new format did they create? _____ _____
4	How long can people spend at the festival, and which two types of live entertainment are mentioned? _____ _____
5	Which issues does the museum hope to bring to light alongside the entertainment? _____
6	Why might people who previously avoided the event now be willing to visit? _____ _____
7	In Dark Tides, what creatures or settings might visitors encounter? Give three details. _____ _____
8	How does the speaker express enthusiasm for Dark Tides, and what aspects of the underwater theme make it creatively exciting? _____ _____
9	What do visitors ask about the attractions, and what does the speaker proudly reveal about the people who create them? _____
10	When visitors opt in to the more intense experience, what can the staff do? Give three examples. _____ _____

Phrase Match

Match each exact expression heard in the video (1-10) to its meaning (A-J).

Expressions (1-10)	Meanings (A-J)
1. behind-the-scenes tour	A. many activities taking place at the same time
2. a lot of stuff going on	B. make people aware of something less widely known
3. wanted to pivot	C. deciding what kind of experience you want
4. came up with	D. do not misunderstand what we are saying
5. bring to light	E. intended to change direction or approach
6. something for everyone	F. a guided visit to areas normally hidden from the public
7. don't get us wrong	G. thought of or developed an idea
8. super stoked about it	H. actively choose to take part in something
9. choosing your own adventure	I. extremely enthusiastic or excited about it
10. opt in	J. activities to suit many different tastes

Synonym Match

Match each word heard in the video (1-10) to the closest contextual synonym (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. abandoned	A. integrate
2. stunning	B. sellers
3. linear	C. spectacular
4. incorporate	D. terrifying
5. incarceration	E. sequential
6. aquatic	F. indicates
7. horrifying	G. imprisonment
8. vendors	H. limitless
9. signifies	I. water-related
10. endless	J. deserted

Use the New Language

Choose five new words or expressions from this lesson and write an original sentence using each one.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A - Personal experience	Student B - Opinions and analysis
1. Have you ever visited a haunted house or a Halloween attraction? What was it like?	1. Is a former prison an appropriate setting for a Halloween festival, or does it trivialise its history?
2. Do you enjoy being frightened for fun, or would you rather avoid it?	2. Can entertainment genuinely raise awareness of mass incarceration, or does it distract from the issue?
3. What's the most unusual or memorable festival or event you've ever attended?	3. Should performers be allowed to touch or separate guests when they have explicitly opted in?
4. Have you ever dressed up for Halloween or a themed party? What did you wear?	4. Why do some people pay to feel afraid? How is fear different from excitement?
5. Would you rather explore an abandoned prison with a torch or watch a horror film at home?	5. Do large festivals bring people together, or have they become mainly commercial experiences?
6. At a big festival, do you prefer live performances, exploring different areas or socialising?	6. What responsibilities should organisers have towards guests who panic or feel overwhelmed?
7. What makes a night out memorable for you: the people, the setting or the activities?	7. Has Halloween become more about costumes, social media and spending than its original traditions?
8. Would you opt in to the more intense experience, or would it be too much for you?	8. If you designed a Halloween festival, how would you balance scares, entertainment and education?

60-Second Summary Challenge

Without looking at your notes, explain how the festival changed and describe what makes the new experience distinctive. Include one detail about its history and use at least two expressions from the lesson.

Access the Video Transcript

The video is in natural, fast American English. Watch with captions and use YouTube's Show transcript option to check difficult passages. The full transcript is not reproduced here.

[Watch the video and open its transcript](#)

Answer Key

Listening Comprehension

- [0:06-0:28] Visiting part of the museum, taking a behind-the-scenes flashlight tour of the hospital, visiting themed bars and lounges, watching the dance troupe perform, watching a light show or visiting the museum store. (Any three.)
- [0:28-0:43] For 29 years. It was a linear walk-through haunted house, and it was all scary.
- [0:36-0:52] The world shut down in 2020, giving them an opportunity to rethink the show. They came up with a festival-style event called Halloween Nights.
- [0:43-1:08] One to four hours. The speaker mentions dancers, singers and magicians. (Any two.)
- [1:08-1:19] The history of the building and issues with the criminal justice system and mass incarceration.
- [1:38-1:54] Some people thought it was too scary. Now there is something for everyone: visitors can enjoy entertainment, drinks and food without doing the scary stuff.
- [1:54-2:18] Sirens, deep-sea creatures, a submarine and an old shanty fishing town. (Any three.)
- [2:18-2:41] The speaker says they have never explored an underwater theme in 35 years and are "super stoked about it". She highlights the "endless creativity" offered by colours, lighting and horrifying underwater creatures.
- [2:41-2:55] Visitors ask, "Who made this?" or "Who makes this?" The speaker proudly explains, "We make it. We make it in the house," describing their in-house team as incredibly talented.
- [2:57-3:14] Staff can touch them, separate them from their group, pull them into hidden passageways and make them crawl. (Any three.)

Phrase Match

1=F, 2=A, 3=E, 4=G, 5=B, 6=J, 7=D, 8=I, 9=C, 10=H

Synonym Match

1=J, 2=C, 3=E, 4=A, 5=G, 6=I, 7=D, 8=B, 9=F, 10=H

Example Sentences With the Phrases

No.	Example sentence
1	The visitors joined a behind-the-scenes tour of the abandoned theatre.
2	There was a lot of stuff going on at the festival, so we stayed for hours.
3	After several years, the organisers wanted to pivot towards a wider audience.
4	Our group came up with a creative idea for a Halloween costume.
5	The documentary helped bring to light problems in the justice system.
6	The festival offers something for everyone, from music to historical tours.
7	Don't get us wrong: we enjoy a good scare, but we also like a relaxing evening.
8	The designers were super stoked about it when they saw the finished set.
9	The experience was about choosing your own adventure rather than following one route.
10	Visitors can opt in to the more intense version of the haunted house.

Teacher note: Model answers follow the speaker's key wording. Accept other accurate listening answers supported by the video. Timestamps are approximate. Student sentences and discussions are open-ended.