

## **Content Based Instruction for Language Teachers**

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### **Abstract**

*In this presentation, participants will be introduced to both the theory and practice of Content-Based Instruction (CBI), with special emphasis on the affective learning domain. After looking at the various benefits of a CBI approach, the presenter will introduce an example of a CBI program that is currently being used in a tertiary-level English program for management course students in Japan. Participants will go away with the knowledge and tools for successfully developing and implementing their own content-based classes, as well as lists of potential pitfalls and suggested further readings.*

### **Question 1**

How is CBI different from other language teaching approaches?

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### **Question 2**

What are some of the benefits of CBI approach to teaching language?

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### **Question 3**

What is the “double whammy” and what does it have to do with CBI?

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### **Question 4**

What subject matter do think would be interesting and/or useful for your students?

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### **Question 5**

What questions, concerns or worries do you have about using a CBI approach?

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### **References**

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### **Online Resources**

Tests Document Readability

[http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability\\_test\\_and\\_improve.jsp](http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability_test_and_improve.jsp)

## Content-Based Instruction – References

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## **The History of Halloween**

One of the oldest holidays still celebrated, this seemingly bizarre tradition originated hundreds of years ago with the Celtic people of pre-medieval Europe. The Celts were a diverse group of tribal societies of the Iron Age and Roman-era Europe, which are thought to have originated in Austria about 800 BC. All speaking some version of the Celtic language, by 450 BC, the culture had expanded across Europe.

The Celts of Ireland, Britain, and France divided their year into halves: the “light half,” roughly consisting of the spring and summer months when days are longer, and the “dark half,” consisting of the autumn and winter months when days are shorter and nights are longer.

The Celts celebrated the end of the light half with the festival of “Samhain,” which roughly translated to "summer's end" in the old Irish language. It was regarded as the "Celtic New Year," which not only celebrated the end of harvest and the beginning of a new year, but also, honored the dead. During this time, the ancient Celts believed that the border between this world and the Otherworld became thin, which would allow both harmless and evil spirits to pass through and roam the streets and villages.

The event was celebrated with bonfires, feasts, and many superstitions. Following the Roman conquest of Britain, British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and fixed the date of Samhain’s observance to November 1st. The evening before was referred to as All Hallows Eve, from which, the name "Halloween" comes from. To honor their ancestors and ensure that next year's crops would be plentiful, treats and gifts were left out for their spirits the night before. To ward off harmful spirits, the Celts wore costumes, masks, veils, or blackened their faces, and also left gifts in hopes of pacifying them. These customs evolved into trick-or-treating. The event also was marked by taking stock of food supplies and slaughtering livestock for winter stores. The bonfires played a large part in this tradition, as people and their livestock would often walk between two fires as a cleansing ritual.

While the holiday began strictly as a Celtic festival, aspects of Roman religion were incorporated into its observance over the four centuries of Roman rule in Britain (43-410 AD). One of these is the tradition of bobbing for apples and making candied apples, in honor of the Roman goddess of fruit trees and gardens -- Pomona. As Christianity spread throughout the world, pagan holidays were either Christianized or forgotten. Halloween continued as it is the evening before All Saints Day, which was created by Christians to convert pagans, and is celebrated on November 1st. The Catholic church honored saints on this designated day.

In the early days of the United States, many settlers came from England, Ireland, and Scotland, bringing their traditions and beliefs with them. Other immigrant groups added their own cultural influences including witchcraft, voodoo beliefs, black cats and more. The event was celebrated differently in various areas with barn dances, parades, firecrackers, and more superstitions.

By the late 1800's, Halloween costumes were popularized by adults but, by the turn of the century, they were mostly worn by children. As the holiday evolved as a children's holiday, towns and cities began hosting large community celebrations and by the 1940's, trick-or-treating had become widespread.

Though there are some that believe the holiday is evil, honoring pagan rituals or the occult, the vast majority celebrate it as a day of fun. In fact, in the United States, it is the second most popular holiday, second only to Christmas.

## The History of Halloween

### I. Scanning Words

bizarre	diverse	festival
honored	superstitions	pacifying
incorporated	pagans	settlers
firecrackers	popularized	occult

### II. Skimming Activity

1. Based only on the title, the ten “scanning words” above, and what you just saw as you were scanning the reading for these words, what do you think the reading is about? Do NOT turn this paper over to look for more information.
2. When the teacher says, “GO!” you may turn the paper over for only 15 seconds to skim the reading once more for the answer to #1. Write your new answer below.
3. Now, skim the comprehension questions below. If your answer to #2 changes, write your new answer below.

(Fold the page here and do NOT look at the Comprehension Questions below until you have answered questions 1 & 2 above.)

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### III. Comprehension Questions

1. What was meant by the Celtic designation of “light half” and “dark half”?
2. What were the three purposes of the “Samhain” festival?
3. What customs evolved into trick-or-treating?
4. How did Halloween evolve in the United States?

### IV. Your Turn

1. Describe another holiday that you are familiar with. How is it celebrated? Where does this celebration come from?