

Who Stole the Pumpkin?

Halloween mystery speaking game · ages 11 to 17 · pre-intermediate and up · 15 minutes

① How to play

1. **Set the case.** Write on the board: "Someone stole the pumpkin last night!" Then WHO? (vampire, witch, zombie, ghost), WHERE? (kitchen, library, garden) and WHEN? (8, 9, 10 PM).
2. **Deal the clues.** Groups of four. Each student gets one secret clue card. They read it and say it, but never show it.
3. **Share and cross off.** Students share their clues and cross off suspects, places and times on their detective notes.
4. **Solve it.** The first team to say "It must have been the vampire, in the kitchen, at ten!" wins a point.

Tip: Watch for the student who holds up the card. Read it, hide it, say it out loud.

④ Answers (keep this page)

Case 1: the video case

The vampire, in the kitchen, at ten.

The cape means the vampire. The pumpkin left the kitchen at ten.

Case 3: one clue is a lie

The zombie, in the garden, at eight. Clue C is the lie.

Clue D points to the zombie, so the zombie's own story (clue C) must be the lie. If any other clue were the lie, nobody could have done it.

⑤ The cases on this file

Case 1: The first three clues are the ones in the video.

Case 3: Harder. Tell groups: one clue is a lie. Find it!

② Language first

Past continuous (The thief was wearing..., The witch was flying...) and guessing about the past (It must have been... / It can't have been... because...).

It must have been the vampire because...

It can't have been the witch because she was...

③ Easier and harder

Easier: Groups of two, two clues each. Put the case board on the board for everyone.

Harder: Case 3 hides one lie in the clues. Then groups write a case for another group on the blank cards.

Case 2: the library

The ghost, in the library, at nine.

Still there at 8:30 and nobody got in at ten, so it went at nine. The vampire and the witch were in the kitchen, and the zombie was in the garden at nine.

Groups finish early?

Hand them the blank cards: they write a case for another group, four clues in the past continuous, and keep the answer on the back.

Case 2: Every clue is needed.

Page 3: blank cards for your own case.

CASE 1 · CLUE A The thief was wearing a long black cape. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 1	CASE 1 · CLUE B The pumpkin was sitting in the kitchen until ten. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 1
CASE 1 · CLUE C At ten, the witch was flying over the town. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 1	CASE 1 · CLUE D The zombie was sleeping in the garden all night. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 1
CASE 2 · CLUE A At half past eight, the pumpkin was still sitting in the library. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 2	CASE 2 · CLUE B The vampire was playing cards with the witch in the kitchen all night. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 2
CASE 2 · CLUE C At nine, the zombie was dancing in the garden. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 2	CASE 2 · CLUE D At ten, the library door was locked and nobody could get in. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 2

CASE 3 · CLUE A ? The pumpkin was sitting in the garden until eight. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 3	CASE 3 · CLUE B ? At eight, the vampire, the ghost and the witch were watching a film in the library. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 3
CASE 3 · CLUE C ? The zombie says: "I was sleeping in the kitchen all night." SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 3	CASE 3 · CLUE D ? The thief was wearing a torn green shirt. SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. CASE 3
YOUR CASE · CLUE A ? SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. YOUR CASE	YOUR CASE · CLUE B ? SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. YOUR CASE
YOUR CASE · CLUE C ? SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. YOUR CASE	YOUR CASE · CLUE D ? SAY IT. NEVER SHOW IT. YOUR CASE