

Double Double Letters

A Concocted Lexical Ha**ll**ow**ee**n Treat

with a

Graphic Organizer for Writing

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(From **Brain Candy for Young Scholars**)



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A Note from the author. . .

In harmony with the unabashed, juvenile behavior it solicits from all age and intelligence groups, the word *Halloween* is itself quite unique. Some say it goes all the way back to ancient Rome, but most pinpoint its origin to an old Celtic calendar where it was the last night of the year—the transition between the “lighter half” of the year (summer) and the “darker half” (winter). It was a fragile time, a night when both good and evil spirits could wander into the world of the living.

With pagan rituals and ideas in its ancestry, it spent its childhood in Old English. An early recognizable form is *Allhallow-even*, a Scottish shortening of an archaic word for “All-Hallows-Eve.” The term *Halloween* first appeared in the 16th century (c 1556).

Lucky for us, it grew up to be a word with **two sets of double letters**, which makes it a perfect starting point for an activity focusing on this particular spelling anomaly.

So, here it is--**Double Double Letters**—A Concocted Lexical Halloween Treat with a Graphic Organizer for Writing.

Centuries in the making, and it's free!



Double Double Letters

Use the clues to unscramble the letters in **bold** print and reveal a word with *two sets of double letters*. Write the correctly spelled word in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. **eellnoawH** October 31, same spooky date every year
- _____ 2. **oooodv** It involves spells and magic.
- _____ 3. **oollrmba** Mummies and witches can dance in this place.
- _____ 4. **ooollydHw** Vampires and werewolves go here to be movie stars.
- _____ 5. **ssocmlar** This is probably where you are right now.
- _____ 6. **oollnab** Some of them float, but they all make a loud noise when they pop.
- _____ 7. **eeffco** You can have it with or without caffeine.
- _____ 8. **mmooaetr**s Some of them get along well and some of them don't.
- _____ 9. **hhoofkis** Without one of these, a fisherman couldn't fish.
- _____ 10. **sspprhgorae** an insect with a spring in its step
- _____ 11. **sssssooienp** It's all of the stuff that belongs to you.
- _____ 12. **eellluyfg** happily
- _____ 13. **eeesshslcp** You might temporarily be in this condition if you saw a ghost.
- _____ 14. **nlluaay** another way to say "once a year"
- _____ 15. **ccaalleitydn** "Whoops!"
- _____ 16. **sslleipm** Sum peepil dew this too allmoust everry wurd thay rite.
- _____ 17. **rraeullignq** arguing, snarling, snapping, posturing, yelling, punching, etc. . .
- _____ 18. **ookkaarrbu** It's a bird! It's a plane! It Super. . . No, it really is a bird.
- _____ 19. **lllliiybh** a mountain William
- _____ 20. **ffooubn** an undignified, silly jokester
- _____ 21. **ssrraaeebmd** Is my face red!
- _____ 22. **ppllgraein** People who are doing this are hanging along the side of a building, a mountain, a cliff or a vertical surface of some kind.
- _____ 23. **nnssooeiaaccr** a fact-finding mission
- _____ 24. **llllaaaaWW** a town in southeastern Washington near the Oregon border
- _____ 25. **oossttleh** If this description is appropriate, then it's too late to see a dentist.



- _____ 26. **eeccuarnb** a pirate
- _____ 27. **ddssrea** Without one of these, you wouldn't get any mail.
- _____ 28. **ssccaoyr** a hat, a pair of shoes, a watch, a purse, a ring, etc.
- _____ 29. **ppееutpr** The person who pulls the strings.
- _____ 30. **oottta** body art
- _____ 31. **oossedng** Oh, my _____!
- _____ 32. **rrccuoed** happened
- _____ 33. **sssseeorp** A bank or lender will do this to a car if payments aren't made.
- _____ 34. **sszziiden** You experience this after twirling around and around too fast too many times.
- _____ 35. **sstteac** the "C" in VCR
- _____ 36. **llppaade** totally flabbergasted or horrified.
- _____ 37. **ssssttiinhek** You might experience this nervous condition if the fellow to the right introduced himself as your waiter.
- _____ 38. **sssseeeghwInti** Astronauts know about this.
- _____ 39. **oollbatf** an outdoor sport
- _____ 40. **ppssaeinh** One of the many things that can create this feeling is a good grade on your report card.
- _____ 41. **oollyw** descriptive of sheep
- _____ 42. **ttssssauechM** the Bay State
- _____ 43. **llssiiioaermn** a female with a lot of money
- _____ 44. **ppsssure** to keep from being revealed, published, or circulated; to put an end to forcibly.



Now, unscramble these words with **TRIPLE DOUBLE LETTERS. . .**

- _____ 45. **bbnnsseuotrs** cantankerousness
- _____ 46. **sssspiiiiM** the name of a state and a river
- _____ 47. **mmtteeioc** a group of people working together to complete a task
- _____ 48. **ssnneeeeT** The city of Nashville is the capital of this state.
- _____ 49. **kkeeoignpb** another word for *accounting*
- _____ 50. **ooplliiirwwh** a bird with a name that imitates its cry

Seeing Double

What if . . . every person on earth had an identical **twin**. There would be two of everybody, every where, all the time--**two** carbon-copy parents, **dual** teachers, **double** brothers and sisters, **duplicate** friends, **another** you, etc. Would such a world be **super cool** or just plain **creepy**?

Use the organizer below to crystallize your thoughts on this scenario and reach a conclusion. Write a composition about **Seeing Double**.

<i>Place or Events</i>	<i>Advantages of Doubles</i>	<i>Disadvantages of Duplicates</i>
<i>Home. . .</i>		
<i>School. .</i>		
<i>with Friends. .</i>		
<i>Conclusion. .</i>		

Answer Keys

1. Halloween
2. voodoo
3. ballroom
4. Hollywood
5. classroom
6. balloon
7. coffee
8. roommates
9. fishhooks
10. grasshopper
11. possessions
12. gleefully
13. speechless
14. annually
15. accidentally
16. misspell
17. quarrelling
18. kookaburra
19. hillbilly
20. buffoon
21. embarrassed
22. rappelling
23. reconnaissance
24. Walla Walla
25. toothless
26. buccaneer
27. address
28. accessory
29. puppeteer
30. tattoo
31. goodness
32. occurred
33. repossess
34. dizziness
35. cassette
36. appalled
37. skittishness
38. weightlessness
39. football
40. happiness
41. woolly
42. Massachusetts
43. millionairess
44. suppress
45. stubbornness
46. Mississippi
47. committee
48. Tennessee
49. bookkeeping
50. whippoorwill

Teacher's Resource

More Double Double Letter Words

carelessness
cheerfully
crisscross
fearlessness
millennium
bassoon
aggressive
raccoon
illness
cappuccino
bittersweet
fricassee
muumuu
gooseberry
dumbbell
successor
success
beekeeper
occasionally
successful
access
cassette
accommodate
whippersnapper
squirrely
buttress
unnecessary
reconnaissance
restlessness
unhappiness
assessment
speechless
sleepiness
lessee
appalled