

# A to Z English

Episode: A to Z News: Itaewon Tragedy

Website: <http://atozenglishpodcast.com>

In this episode, Kevin, Kevin, and Xochitl talk about the recent Halloween Tragedy in Itaewon in South Korea.

Transcript:

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## Full Transcript

[00:00:00](#) Kevin

Welcome to A-Z, English news from A-Z.

[00:00:04](#) Kevin

We're going to tell.

[00:00:05](#) Kevin

You about something interesting that has happened in the world over the past couple of weeks, So what?

[00:00:11](#) Kevin

What big has happened these days, Jack?

[00:00:14](#) Jack

Well, as you know, Kevin and and our listeners may know as well out there that we, you and I live in Korea and social used to live in Korea and unfortunately.

[00:00:25](#) Kevin

That is true.

[00:00:26](#) Jack

Uh, just this past weekend.

[00:00:29](#) Jack

There was outside the weekend before, I suppose.

[00:00:33](#)Jack

Last weekend there was a a horrible tragedy here in South Korea.

[00:00:39](#)Kevin

And there's a Halloween Halloween weekend.

[00:00:41](#)Jack

That's right, it was Halloween weekend. And every Halloween there there's a an area in Seoul called it A1 where they have a lot of Halloween, fest, festivals and parties and and people get dressed up and they walk along the streets. And this is a very.

[00:01:02](#)Jack

Popular place to go on Halloween in Korea.

[00:01:06](#)Jack

It's but.

[00:01:07](#)Kevin

Especially for young people, it's the big yeah Halloween area.

[00:01:11](#)Jack

Yeah, I mean I I went there the last time I've spent Halloween in Itaewon was probably 2005, so this was a long time ago. This is 17 years ago, so it wasn't quite.

[00:01:21](#)Kevin

Right?

[00:01:23](#)Kevin

I was there more recently than that, but it 01 also for everyone listening it 01 is kind of the foreign neighborhood in so like if you want foreign food, that's where all the you know.

[00:01:33](#)Kevin

There's an Indian restaurant to Mexican restaurant, so it's highly hamster outside.

[00:01:35](#)Jack

Right?

[00:01:36](#)Kevin

It's all in detail one, yeah, everything.

[00:01:36](#)Xochitl

Ethiopian food.

[00:01:40](#)Jack

Yeah, it's it's definitely like the most international place that you could.

[00:01:44](#)Jack

You could go, which is why they celebrate Halloween.

[00:01:46](#)Jack

There is because it's, I think it started.

[00:01:49](#)Jack

Probably you know 2025 years ago with like foreign bars, you know Americans and Canadians visiting bars and and things like that in the area.

[00:01:59](#)Jack

And that started.

[00:02:01](#)Jack

And because Halloween is kind of fun, you get to dress up once a year and and it's it's it is kind of a, uh.

[00:02:08](#)Jack

A fun festival, even for adults, it became so popular that that that it became kind of dangerously crowded.

[00:02:18](#)Jack

And essentially what happened was there was a a mass crush event where there were so many people that.

[00:02:28](#)Jack

Dumb people got got crushed and because of the crowd, I think there were 100,000 people on that street.

[00:02:36](#)Kevin

In a small yeah, this relatively small neighborhood.

[00:02:40](#)Jack

Yes, yes, and.

[00:02:41](#)Xochitl

The narrow St.

[00:02:44](#)Jack

In a narrow St.

[00:02:45](#)Jack

Right, and so it it became.

[00:02:49](#)Jack

Unfortunately, what happened was.

[00:02:51](#)Jack

The uh 120.

[00:02:54](#)Jack

Four people, I believe lost their lives.

[00:02:58](#)Jack

150 fifty.

[00:02:58](#) 발표자

I think the.

[00:02:58](#)Xochitl

Whole is now 100 feet something, yeah?

[00:03:01](#)Kevin

Over 100 / 150. It was 156 the.

[00:03:01](#)Xochitl

OK.

[00:03:04](#)Kevin

Last time I.

[00:03:04](#)Jack

Saw yeah, OK.

[00:03:06](#)Jack

Yeah, and that.

[00:03:07](#)Jack

That's that's such a horrible tragedy.

[00:03:10](#)Jack

And so it was something that was in the in the News, International news and and I'm sure that perhaps our listeners out there.

[00:03:20](#)Jack

I've heard about that.

[00:03:21](#)Jack

But yeah, we were just.

[00:03:23](#)Jack

It was a.

[00:03:24](#)Jack

Very shocking thing and.

[00:03:25](#)Jack

So we let's talk like.

[00:03:27](#)Kevin

Yeah, and it's really sad because I mean any tragedy is sad, but this it was all young people write mostly college students.

[00:03:35](#)Kevin

Some high school students, I think, were actually there as well.

[00:03:38](#)Kevin

But yeah, all all young people who were just going out to have fun enjoy Halloween, dressing some costumes and.

[00:03:47](#)Kevin

And play around and then this this tragedy happened and it shows in Korea.

[00:03:53](#)Kevin

There's just so many people that were kind of used to being, you know.

[00:03:57](#)Kevin

Out and so people didn't really think it was a problem until it was too late until it was, it was a cell phone.

[00:04:02](#)Jack

Right and usually usually it's quite.

[00:04:06](#)Jack

People are quite orderly here.

[00:04:08](#)Jack

I mean it's not.

[00:04:09](#)Jack

There's not a lot of like you know in in Europe you have soccer stadium.

[00:04:16](#)Jack

You know crowds of people that are on unruly, you know, kind of disorganized and and and aggressive.

[00:04:24](#)Jack

But that's not.

[00:04:25](#)Jack

How crowds are in Korea.

[00:04:27](#)Jack

It's it's quite orderly.

[00:04:28](#)Jack

I think this was just.

[00:04:30](#)Jack

A an issue of just too many people in one place.

[00:04:33](#)Jack

There was just nothing you could.

[00:04:35](#)Kevin

Yeah, there was just.

[00:04:37](#)Kevin

Far too many people in this small, small small St.

[00:04:41](#)Kevin

And yeah there were people trying to go up and trying to go down this small alley at the same time and when there were so many people like so so so many people that they just couldn't move.

[00:04:54](#)Kevin

Literally could not move and could not breathe.

[00:04:56](#)Kevin

In some cases.

[00:04:57](#)Xochitl

When I read more about the details, it's like after.

[00:05:01](#)Xochitl

What I think 6 people per a certain area surface area then the crowd starts to behave like a fluid which I had no idea about.

[00:05:11](#)Xochitl

And you know, obviously not to get into the gruesome details, but it's dangerous because it essentially anything from someone way in the back of the crowd can send the shockwave all the way.

[00:05:21](#)Xochitl

Through to the front of the crowd and cause.

[00:05:24](#)Xochitl

The kind of tragedy that we saw.

[00:05:25](#)Xochitl

So yeah, Kevin sent that in the chat, but uhm, I saw that post on Reddit and read about it and it was very.

[00:05:34](#)Xochitl

Uhm, Chad to to hear about, you know.

[00:05:38](#)Xochitl

Yeah and yeah, I, I guess you're probably gonna ask me.

[00:05:41](#)Xochitl

I I had friends who thankfully none of my you know my friends were all safe right now.

[00:05:47](#)Xochitl

But one of some of them are in home day celebrating and they were going to go to Itaewon, but they couldn't get a cab.

[00:05:55](#)Xochitl

And I just wanted to talk about how good Korea is.

[00:05:58](#)Xochitl

The school district that they work for has been actually 'cause they work for up.

[00:06:02](#)Xochitl

Like in Daegu and they gave them time off to go like grief counselors and I got grief counselors for anyone who was there, so that that's been really good.

[00:06:13](#)Xochitl

I was relieved because I think any of us who have lived in Korea know how stigmatized mental health can be there.

[00:06:19](#)Xochitl

I think that's one of the bigger issues.

[00:06:22](#)Xochitl

And it was just really nice to see that it's taken seriously.

[00:06:26](#)Xochitl

'cause that is a very.

[00:06:29](#)Xochitl

Yeah tragic event, you know.

[00:06:31](#)Jack

Yeah, I mean I have a.

[00:06:32](#)Jack

My daughter is 14 years old, so for me you know if if she were just a few years older I could imagine you know that my my child being at at a Halloween festival for you know on the weekend.

[00:06:46](#)Jack

So it's you know it does kind of hit close to home for us here in Korea.

[00:06:51](#)Jack

'cause you know, we're we're so close to this this country so.

[00:06:56](#)Kevin

Yeah, and there were students at our university who were in that group.

[00:07:01](#)Kevin

But I mean there there's a a small tent open at our university for people to show their respects for.

[00:07:07](#)Kevin

A couple of students who lost their lives at at our university.

[00:07:10](#)Kevin

As well as well.

[00:07:10](#)Jack

Oh my goodness, OK?

[00:07:12](#)Kevin

Yeah it it it.

[00:07:14](#)Kevin

All the young people it definitely is.

[00:07:14](#) 발표자

Very sad.

[00:07:17](#)Jack

Yeah, well here at A-Z our our hearts go out to family and friends of yeah of of the victims.

[00:07:25](#)Jack

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☒

So with that said, we will say goodbye for today and we'll see you at the next time for another A-Z News segment. Thanks everybody. Bye bye.

[00:07:35](#)Kevin

OK, see you next time.

[00:07:37](#)Xochitl

Bye everyone, see you next time.