

WHAT IS A ZOMBIE?

Zombies are **fictional (not real)**. They are monsters that came to life after death. Zombies were once human, but died and came back to life. Zombies are usually a walking rotten corpse. They do not talk, and move slowly.



A **zombie** is a fictional monster (not real), they are a dead person who has returned to life as a walking corpse. Mythical things that have been "re-animated" are called *undead*, and a group of them can be called *the living dead*. The Zombie myth came from the [Caribbean](#).

Zombies have become very popular in horror movies. They are dead creatures that have been brought back to life by science or by magic, and eat the flesh or brains of living people.

Zombies can walk, think (in some cases), and attack living persons. Most zombies eat the brains of living humans. In zombies, the heart, lungs, and a small part of their brain still work. They may react to their environment, but they do not have [consciousness](#). Zombies can use their skeleton and muscles to move. The skin is rotten. Its hair and nails are falling off. Zombies are usually covered in blood. They often have open wounds and are dressed in ripped clothes.

Zombies appear a lot in horror and [fantasy](#) films. Normally, the zombie is a mindless, clumsy corpse which eats human flesh. Zombies can not be called [cannibals](#) because they do not eat each other, only living humans. The first zombie stories appeared in the [1600s](#). Since that time, zombies have appeared in lots of books and films.

Characteristics

In zombie films, zombies are almost always:

- Mobile (able to move) but technically dead, without a heartbeat or other vital signs
- In a decaying (rotting) state, with discolored skin and eyes
- Non-communicative (groaning and howling instead of speaking)
- Unemotional, with no mercy toward victims
- Hungry for human flesh (zombies ignore animals like dogs or cats)
- Clumsy and violent
- Vulnerable to destruction of the brain, which kills them
- Unaffected by injuries, even normally fatal ones, as long as they do not hurt the brain too much
- Contagious: a person that is bitten by a zombie will become a zombie
- Does not attack other zombies, leading to swarms of zombies