

Pink Bow Tie

Word Work

Language in Use

Questions

There are lots of questions asked in the text. Here are some of them. They can be divided into two groups, those starting with question words and those that don't. Divide them into the two groups.

"What are you staring at, lad?"

"Why have you dyed your hair blond?"

"Didn't you know it is against the school rules for boys to dye their hair?"

"Trying to be a surfie, eh?"

"How is it that your hair is white today?"

"Am I old enough now?"

"Do you take me for a fool? Do you expect me to believe that yarn?"

Why would she go out with a kid who wears pink bow tie?



With question words	Without question words

Look at the box with those question without question words. You will notice that all of them reverse the order of the subject and the verb, either the main verb (to be) or the auxiliary verb 'to do'. So, '*I am old enough now*' becomes '*Am I old enough now?*' and '*You take me for a fool*' becomes '*Do you take me for a fool*'.

Put the following statements into questions; there are two versions for each, one with a question word and one without

1. You are staring at me _____

2. Your hair is white today _____

3. She has a new boyfriend _____

4. The Principal wants to see you _____

5. The boy caught a train _____

Now look at this question:

"Trying to be a surfie, eh?"

The Principal could have said "Are you trying to be a surfie?" but instead he choose to use a very short question tag form, which is more aggressive. Of course, the word 'eh' isn't a real word at all, and is short for 'are you', so what he is saying is

"Trying to be a surfie, aren't you?"

As you know, a question tag can make a statement into a question as well. This is quite an easy to make questions, as long as you remember to sue the negative question tag for a positive main verb and a positive question tag for a negative main verb. You have to be careful **when** you use, however, it as it is quite informal.

Make the following into questions by adding a question tag:

1. You are staring at me, _____
2. You have dyed your hair blond, _____
3. You know it is against the rules, _____
4. Your hair is white today, _____
5. You take me for a fool, _____
6. You expect me to believe that yarn, _____
7. She goes out with a kid with a pink bow tie, _____

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Past and present at the same time?

Look at this question and decide which tense is being used – past, present or present perfect.

'Why have you dyed your hair?

You chose present perfect, of course! But why is this tense being used here?

- **Question:** Is the action in the past or present (the verb is 'to dye', so the action was dying his hair)?
Answer: The past. He dyed his hair sometime in the past. It doesn't matter when.
- **Question:** Is the consequence of the action still obvious?
Answer: Yes, the speaker can see that the hair is a different colour. It was dyed, and it is still dyed: it has been dyed.

So, a past action with a present consequence means that the best tense to use is the present perfect.

What do you think the consequence of these actions might be:

- Falling off a ladder. *Example: breaking his leg*
- Eating too much chocolate.
- Not doing your homework.
- Running a long distance.
- Waking up late.
- Losing a train ticket

Now write your **consequences** as statements using a *present tense*

Example: He has broken his leg.

Now formulate the question that you might make to ask what happened
Example: He has broken his leg. “Have you had an accident?”



Now complete these dialogues, creating explanations for the events mentioned by using the present perfect.

0. “You’re all wet!” (*example*) I’ve just been swimming _____
1. “You’re covered in chocolate!” _____
2. “You’re late!” _____
3. “Why aren’t you at the cinema?” _____
4. “Why didn’t you catch the bus?” _____
5. “Why is your face so red?” _____

Now do the reverse. Here are some explanations; what are the questions (use the present tense)?

- 0 *example* “You’re sweating!” “I’ve been digging a hole.”
- 1 _____ . “I’ve been cutting up vegetables.”
- 2 _____ . “I’ve seen the newspaper.”
- 3 _____ . “I’ve read her letter.”
- 4 _____ . “I’ve spent all my money.”
- 5 _____ . “I’ve already ordered, thank you”

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Verbs with Prepositions

I am sitting here outside Old Splodge's office waiting for him to call me in. Well, at least I've got something good to look at.

I am scared of the dark. I am scared of ghost stories. I am even scared of the Cookie Monster on *Sesame Street*.

'Easy,' says the kid-man as he stands up. The train is stopping at a station. 'Here,' he says throwing the radio thing on to her lap. 'You can have it if you want.' He goes out of the compartment, down the corridor and gets off the train.

These are all examples of a **verb** which is followed by a **preposition**. In each case the preposition makes the action of the verb clearer, or more obvious. The most common verb + preposition combination in the story is 'look at'. This makes it clear that the person has their attention directly on the object being observed, and not simply near the object, or away from the object. Similarly, when the narrator says that someone "gets off the train" they mean they are disembarking or leaving the train, not embarking or entering the train.

Usually we can change the meaning of the action by using another preposition. Sometimes these are opposites, sometimes they are not. Try changing the meaning of these actions by changing the preposition:

	meaning	change of meaning	meaning
stop at	exact location	<i>stop near</i>	not far away
look at	directly		avoid looking at
go out	leave		enter
get off	leave		enter

Look through the text and find ten more examples of verbs with prepositions. Write them here, and be prepared to explain what they mean.

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10

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Glossary

The text contains a number of words that you will need to look up in a dictionary. Some of them are colloquial terms common in Australia. The meanings given here are correct for the context of the story but may have different meaning in different contexts.

bald	without hair
bent right over	unable to stand straight
bloke	(informal) man
bow tie	small neck tie with two ‘wings’
dye/dyed	change colour artificially
fiddling	moving
fool	idiot
freak out	go crazy
grab	take quickly
grumpy	bad tempered
guy	(informal) man
jammed	stuck; can’t be opened
knob	switch / handle
lad	(informal) young man
lunge	reach for quickly and suddenly
mean	unpleasant; cruel
parents will kill me	not literal! – parents will be very angry
puddle	pile; untidy group
real knockout	beautiful
retire	leave work due to age
rot	decay
shakes his head	says ‘no’ with head
silliest	most stupid
skinny	extremely thin
sticks his head around	looks around the door into the room
surfie	surfer
throat	internal organ of neck
trembles	shakes (with excitement)
twiddles	moves; plays with
two bob	reference to old money – means not much money
utter	absolute; extreme
veins	vessels carrying blood
walking stick	support for walking
wire-rim glasses	the side or edge of spectacles are made of wire
yarn	unbelievable story