

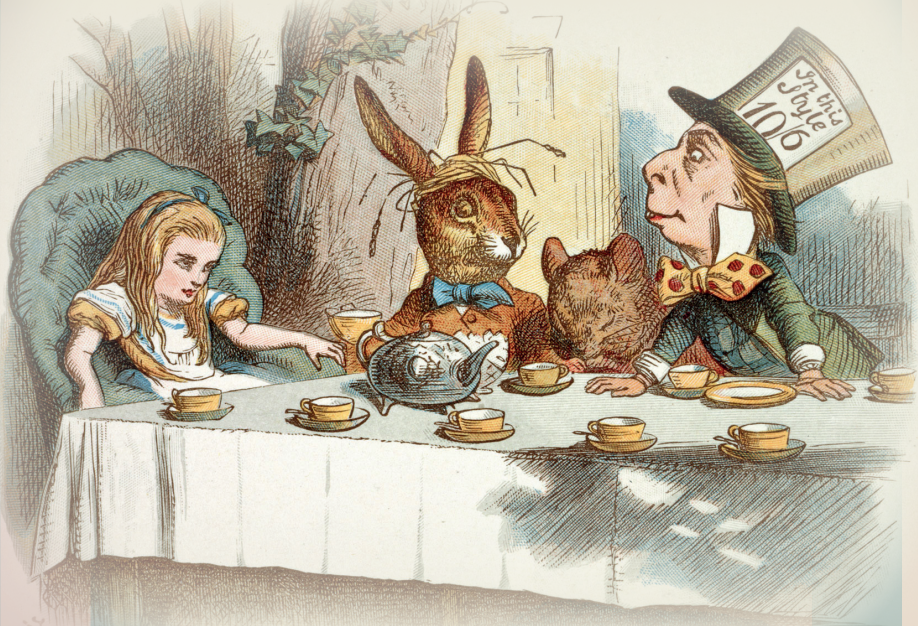


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THE APPEAL OF ALICE



Alice's *Adventures in Wonderland* was originally a children's story, but it is equally enjoyed by both adults and children. The book continues to delight children because it talks about their desire for novelty, play and fantasy. It also appeals to adults because it reminds them that life can be a meaningless puzzle, and it makes them think about how language and logic can limit their lives. Carroll does this by using **nonsense**. Nonsense literature, along with children's literature, was becoming popular in Victorian England.

LEWIS CARROLL AND LANGUAGE

Carroll loved language and logic. He continually created **anagrams** (usually from people's name), and **logic puzzles** and **paradoxes** (most often based on nonsense and wordplay) to amuse his friends' children. But Carroll was a famous mathematician and all his apparently childish exercises were based on complex ideas on the nature of language, truth and logic.

Do you know what these terms mean?

Check in your dictionaries, then find examples.

anagram logic puzzle paradox pun

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER

In the book, Alice meets a series of puzzles that seem to have no solution and she is repeatedly frustrated when she tries to find one. There is a very clear contrast between Alice's good sense and the 'nonsense' of Wonderland's characters. They brilliantly manipulate language and show no respect for its basic rules. New words and new meanings are invented throughout the book. 'When I use a word', says Humpty Dumpty, 'it means just what I choose it to'. And language is not the only thing they play around with, often the very laws of physics are upside down!

Count the number of times **frustrated** is mentioned in the novel.
What is Carroll saying?

OVER TO YOU

Many expressions we use in English come from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The book starts with Alice chasing a white rabbit. What does the expression 'to chase a white rabbit' mean?

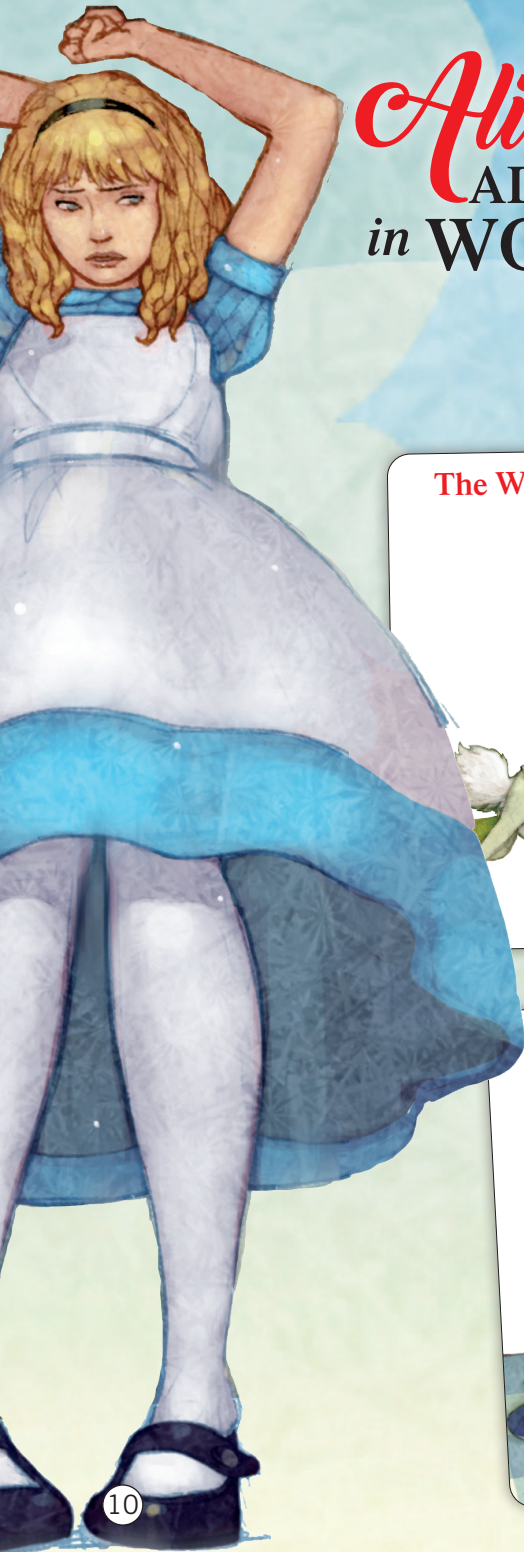
- A do something stupid
- B follow a dream
- C make a good decision

GLOSSARY

- **amuse:** (here) make happy
- **apparently:** that seem
- **appeal:** quality that makes a person interesting
- **complex:** opposite of simple
- **delight:** please greatly
- **desire:** want
- **frustrated:** angry and impatient because she can't do something
- **manipulate:** (here) play with
- **novelty:** something new
- **truth:** when something is true



Alice's ADVENTURES in WONDERLAND



The White Rabbit



2
♥

The Cheshire Cat



4
♥

The March Hare



6
♥



The Mad Hatter



The Queen of Hearts



The Duchess



The Mock Turtle



The gryphon



The caterpillar



BEFORE READING

 **1** Listen to the descriptions of six characters in the story. Match the adjectives to each of the characters.



Alice



The White Rabbit



The caterpillar



The Cheshire Cat



The Mad Hatter




The Queen of Hearts

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 helpful | 2 nervous |
| 3 curious | 4 rude |
| 5 unfriendly | 6 violent |



Alice goes down a rabbit hole

 It was a warm day in July, and Alice and her sister were sitting on the grass in a field. Alice's sister was reading, but Alice was bored. There was nothing for her to do. She looked around and yawned. She was hot, and she was beginning to feel sleepy. She yawned again.



Alice

Why did Alice feel bored?

Why did she feel sleepy?

What do you usually do when you feel bored and sleepy?

What do you think happens next?



Suddenly, a white rabbit with pink eyes ran past her.

'Oh dear! Oh dear! I'm late! Very late!' he was muttering to himself. He stopped and took a big watch out of his waistcoat pocket. He looked at it and said, 'Oh dear! Oh dear!' again, and continued running.

'How very curious!' Alice thought. 'A rabbit in a waistcoat with a pocket watch! I wonder where he's going.'

She got up and ran after him. He went across the grass to the corner of the field and disappeared down a rabbit hole. Alice followed him down the hole, too.

GLOSSARY

- **bored:** tired and not interested (usually because one has nothing to do)
- **curious:** (here) strange
- **muttering:** speaking quietly and unclearly
- **rabbit hole:** hole where rabbits live
- **waistcoat:** short jacket with no sleeves
- **wonder:** ask myself
- **yawned:** opened her mouth wide

Down, down, down she fell, into the deep dark hole. She looked down, but she couldn't see the bottom of it. All around her, there were a lot of bookshelves and cupboards. There were also some pictures and maps on the walls. She saw some jars on the shelves. She picked one up and read the label.



She opened it, but it was empty. 'What a pity!' she thought, and she put it in one of the cupboards as she fell past it. Down, down, down.

'I must be near the centre of the earth now,' she thought. 'That's about four thousand miles down, I think.' (Alice knew this from a geography lesson.)

There was nothing else to do, so Alice continued talking to herself. 'Poor Dinah!' (Dinah was her cat.) 'Are you missing me, Dinah? What a pity you aren't here, too! But there aren't any mice for you to catch. Perhaps you could catch a bat. Do cats like bats, I wonder?' She was asking herself this when, suddenly, THUMP! She landed on some leaves at the bottom of the hole.

She could see a long dark passage in front of her, and the White Rabbit was at the end of it. She ran after him quickly, but he disappeared round a corner. When she got there, she found herself in a big empty room. The White Rabbit wasn't there. She looked around her. There were a lot of doors. She tried to open them, but they were all locked.

'How am I going to get out of this room?' she asked herself, and she started to feel a bit worried.

GLOSSARY

- **a bit:** a little
- **are you missing me?:** (to miss someone/something) are you sad because I am not with you?
- **catch:** get (to eat)
- **passage:** corridor
- **picked one up:** took one in her hands
- **what a pity!:** expression for when one feels sorry about something
- **worried:** anxious or afraid



Then she saw a small glass table. There was a little golden key on it. She picked it up and put it in all the locks on the doors, but it didn't open any of them. She moved a curtain on one of the walls and discovered another door, a very small one. She put the key in the lock. It was exactly the right size! She opened the door and looked through it. At the end of a low passage, she saw a beautiful garden. It was full of brightly coloured flowers and fountains.

'Oh, how beautiful!' she said. 'I'd love to go there, but I'm too big to get through the door.'

She walked back to the table. There was a bottle on it now.



‘I’m sure that bottle wasn’t there before,’ she said, a little confused.

She put down the key and picked up the bottle. She read the words “DRINK ME” on it. Alice wasn’t a stupid girl. She didn’t drink it immediately. First, she looked at the bottle carefully. There wasn’t a label on it that said “POISON”•.

So, she put the bottle to her lips• and drank.

‘Mmm, it’s nice,’ she said. It tasted• like cherry tart, pineapple, roast turkey and toast – all the things that she liked to eat – so she drank some more. And some more. Soon the bottle was empty.



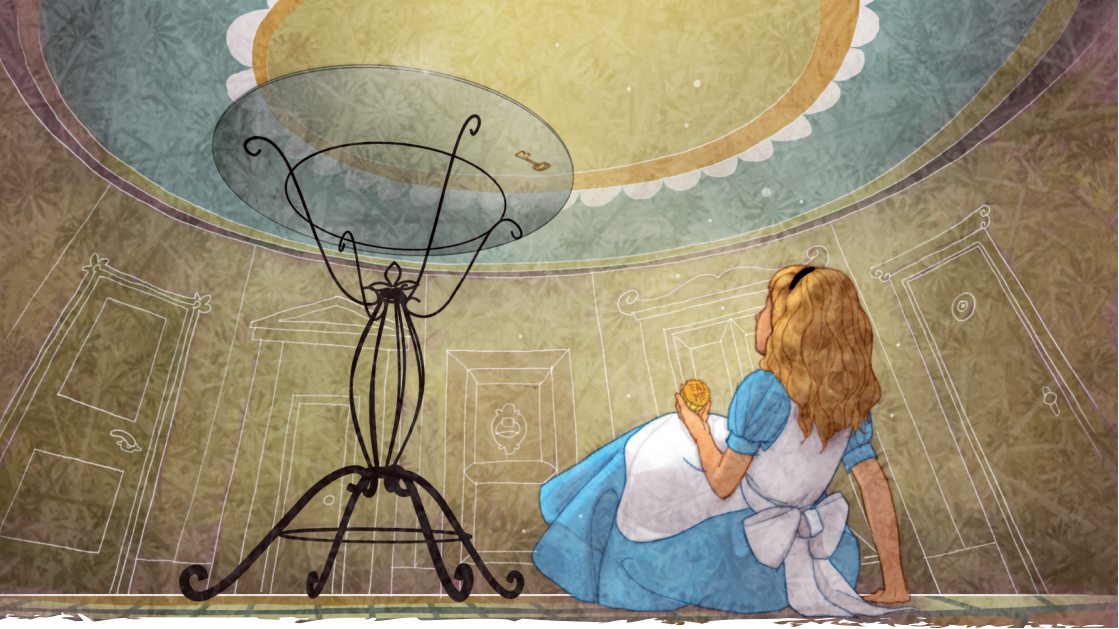
Taste

Imagine you are Alice.
Complete the sentence
and make it true for you.
I put the bottle to my lips.
The drink tasted like
a,
b,
c and
d
– all the things that
I like to eat.



GLOSSARY

- **lips:** the two external edges of your mouth
- **poison:** something that makes one very ill if one eats or drinks it
- **tasted:** had the flavour of



‘What a curious feeling,’ she said. ‘I’m getting smaller and smaller.’ It was true! She was now as small as her cat Dinah.

‘Good! I can go through the door into the garden,’ she said. But, poor Alice! When she got to the door, she didn’t have the key! It was on the table. She couldn’t reach it because she was too small now. She sat down and cried.

After a while she said, ‘Alice!’ (She often talked to herself.) ‘Stop crying! Crying doesn’t help! Dry your tears immediately!’

When she looked at the table again, she saw a small glass box under it. She picked it up and opened it. There was a small cake inside. It had the words “EAT ME” on it. She put a small piece of it in her mouth.

‘If I grow bigger I can reach the key,’ she thought. ‘And if I grow smaller I can go under the door.’

But nothing happened, so she finished it.

GLOSSARY

• **reach:** touch something with an extended arm

• **tears:** water from one’s eyes

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Complete the word formation table below.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN
SAD	SADNESS
.....	CONFUSION
HOT
.....	COMFORT
AFRAID
.....	DIFFERENCE
YOUNG
.....	NOISE
DIFFICULT
.....	SAFETY
POOR

2 Complete the sentences with the simple past of the verbs in the box.

be begin bend can feel fly hit run stand

- a Suddenly a white rabbit with pink eyes past her.
- b Her tears fell on the ground and soon there a pool of water around her.
- c Just at that moment Alice to feel very strange.
- d Alice's head the ceiling of the room. She was now more than nine feet tall.
- e Alice started to get smaller. Soon she get through the door.
- f She on tiptoe and looked at the top of the mushroom.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the extract below and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for each gap.

'Off with her (1) !' the Queen shouted.
 'You don't frighten me!' Alice said. She was her normal (2) now. 'You're only a pack of playing cards!'
 Suddenly, all the cards flew up (3) the air and dropped down on her head. She screamed and tried to push them away with her hands.

Then she woke up. She was in the field, and some dead leaves (4) falling on her face.

'Are you (5) now, Alice dear?' It was her sister.

'You were asleep for a (6) time.'

'Oh! I had a very (7) dream,' Alice said, and she told her sister about all her strange adventures.

'That was a very curious dream, dear,' her sister said. 'But it's very late now. Run home and have your (8) '

All the (9) home she was thinking, 'What a wonderful dream I had! A really wonderful dream!'

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| 1 A neck | B head | C shoes |
| 2 A size | B clothes | C girl |
| 3 A on | B out | C into |
| 4 A were | B is | C was |
| 5 A awake | B asleep | C alive |
| 6 A tall | B lot | C long |
| 7 A stupid | B curious | C sad |
| 8 A advice | B jam | C tea |
| 9 A world | B people | C way |

