Quiz

1. What do many children do on World Book Day?

They go to school dressed as their favourite characters from their favourite books. 'To dress' means 'to put on clothes'. The most common construction is 'to get dressed': 'I got up early and got dressed', this means you got dressed in – or put on – ordinary or everyday clothes. If you dress or are dressed (passive) as someone or something – it means you are wearing special or unusual clothes (a costume or an outfit). The phrasal verb 'to dress up' has a similar meaning: 'Are you going to dress up for the party?')

2. What activities do teachers organise?

Games, quizzes and competitions.

3. Where can you find the meaning (or definition) of a word?

In a dictionary.

4. What is a good way of improving your comprehension?

Listen to recordings of people reading stories and books. (You can also say 'listen to **spoken word** books or **audio** books')

5. When is the Edinburgh Book Festival held?

Every August. (Or you could say 'every year, in August')

6. Name three interesting places in Edinburgh you can visit for free if you like books.

The Writers' Museum; The National Library of Scotland; The Central Lending Library.

Vocabulary/grammar

1. What's another word for 'particularly'?

You could say **'especially'** instead of 'particularly'. Especially and particularly are **adverbs** and are related to the **adjectives 'special'** and '**particular'**. In the above context: 'all kinds of books but *particularly* (*especially*) children's books' means we're talking about a big collection of things (all kinds of books) but **emphasising** or **concentrating** on a smaller part (children's books).

2. If you 'encourage' someone, is that a good or bad thing?

Generally, it's a good thing. If you **encourage** someone, you help them to **improve** by giving that person **support**, **confidence** or **hope** ('My teacher is encouraging me to go to university.'). And yes, it is related to the abstract noun 'courage' so it's like you're giving

someone courage to do something. It is possible to encourage someone to do bad or negative things but it would be better to say **make** or **persuade** or **influence** ('The Devil made me do it!')

3. What's another way of saying 'look it up'?

The phrasal verb 'to look it up' means to look for or to search for (and then find) a piece of information in a book or a database. ('What does 'encourage' mean?' 'I don't know, I'll look it up in the dictionary.')

4. What does 'inspired' mean?

The verb 'to inspire' is very like 'to encourage' however you can inspire someone without meeting that person and it's usually associated with doing something creative. ('Agatha Christie inspired me to write a book.') Things – like places – can also inspire ('Edinburgh inspires me'). To inspire is one of those verbs where the past participle can become an adjective: 'I am inspired' meaning 'I am an inspired person'. (check out my post 'Excited or exciting?')

5. What happens when you 'join' something? Apart from a library, can you think of other things you can join?

In the above context it's used with an object 'join a library' – this means you become a member of the library. Other things you can join (become a member of) are a club, a gym, a political party, various organisations ('Britain joined the EU in 1973'). You can join various other things – like a class or a group without necessarily being a member – you would 'take part' or 'participate'. When you join a company or the army (for example) the idea is you're an employee rather than a member. 'To join' has various, slightly different meanings (look them up in a dictionary!)

Read or read? (is it a long 'ee' or a short 'eh' sound?)

1. I read the newspaper every day.

Long 'ee' sound (present simple tense)

2. I read a great book last week.

Short 'eh' sound (past tense)

3. Did you read the email I sent you?

Long 'ee' sound (forming a question with the infinitive)

4. He asked me to read the bus timetable for him.

Long 'ee' sound (infinitive)

5. She was bored so she read her magazine.

Short 'eh' sound (past tense)

Discuss

How many different types of book can you think of?

How many British authors (writers) can you name?

Who is your favourite author?

What is your favourite book?

What is it about?

Why is it your favourite?

Think of your own answers! Or look them up!

Sonya Nemec/Top Hack English/Feb 2021