

Back to the Future, Chapter 3: Hill Valley, 1955

Vocabulary

Without using the textbook, look at the following lines with a partner. Can you remember who said them? If you can't remember, try to guess. What were they talking about?

- a) It's already **mutated** into human form. (p. 56)
- b) Fine, fine. Okay, McFly, **get a grip** on yourself! (p. 56)
- c) It can't be. This is **nuts!** (p. 58)
- d) Mayor Red Thomas' progress **platform** means more jobs, better education, bigger civic improvements, and lower taxes. (p. 58)
- e) Well, **what's with** the life preserver? (p. 60)
- f) I can't give you **a tab** unless you order something. (p. 60)
- g) Uh, well, actually I **figured** since it wasn't due till Monday. (p. 60)
- h) Don't be so **gullible**, McFly. (p. 62)
- i) ...if you let people **walk over** you now, they'll be walkin' over you for the rest of your life. (p. 62)
- j) Now, that's a good idea. I could **run for** mayor. (p. 64)

Complete the following sentences with the underlined words or phrases from above. Change the form of the words, or replace portions so that they work well (do → did, me → him, etc.)

1. Wait a minute... a hotdog costs \$20 just because it is sold inside the baseball stadium? That's _____!
2. Excuse me bartender, I'll be here all evening. Can I start _____ instead of paying for each drink?
3. I tend to panic in stressful situations, but after the earthquake, I knew that I needed to _____ on myself and keep my family safe.
4. A couple of years ago nobody thought that Donald Trump would _____ president of America!
5. A lot of _____ people think that collagen creams can make them look younger.
6. You know, Sue works every day, does all the cooking and takes care of the kids while her husband stays at home playing video games. I don't know why she lets him _____ her like that.
7. It was a true and false test, so I _____ that I'd get at least 50% if I answered all "true." It didn't work out that way, though.

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8. After Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, his DNA _____ and he gained super strength.

9. _____ the glasses you're wearing? They don't even have lenses in them.

10. The president was elected on a _____ of change. Unfortunately, that's been pretty difficult to accomplish.

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Content

1. What did Sherman first think when he saw Marty for the first time? Why did he think that? What did he want to do?
2. This is the first time we meet Biff as a young man. How is different? How is he the same?
3. Biff is forcing George to do his homework for him. How would you react if someone were trying to take credit for your work?
4. Why do so many people think that Marty is a sailor?
5. What gives Goldie the idea of becoming Mayor?
6. Describe Biff's friends. Be as specific as possible.

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Discussion

1. The billboard for Lyon Estates read “LIVE IN THE HOME OF TOMORROW... Today!” What do you think the idea of a futuristic home would have been in 1955? What do you think homes will be like in 2050?
2. When Goldie states that he’s going to be mayor one day, Lou responds by saying “A colored mayor, that’ll be the day!” Explain what Lou meant by this. Do you think the situation has changed a lot in the U.S. since 1955? Why or why not? What still needs to change?
3. Now think about question #2 again, but this time think about Japan instead of the U.S. What things have changed since the 1950s. What groups of people still need more rights in Japan?
4. The sign on the movie theater reads “ANY SEAT 50 cents.” Movies are a lot more expensive now. Do you still go to the movies in the theater, or do you still buy/rent DVDs or do you watch movies on your computer? What are the advantages of each way of watching a movie?
5. In this scene, we see some of Red Thomas’s election campaign. What differences do you know of between Japanese election campaigns and American election campaigns? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

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Vocabulary (Answers)

1. Wait a minute... a hotdog costs \$20 just because it is sold inside the baseball stadium? That's **nuts!**
2. Excuse me bartender, I'll be here all evening. Can I start **a tab** instead of paying for each drink?
3. I tend to panic in stressful situations, but after the earthquake, I knew that I needed to **get a hold** on myself and keep my family safe.
4. A couple of years ago nobody thought that Donald Trump would **run for** President of America!
5. A lot of **gullible** people think that collagen creams can make their skin look younger.
6. You know, Sue works every day, does all the cooking and takes care of the kids while her husband stays at home playing video games. I don't know why she lets him **walk over** her like that.
7. It was a true and false test, so I **figured** that I'd get at least 50% if I answered all "true." It didn't work out that way, though.
8. After Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, his DNA **mutated** and he gained super strength.
9. **What's with** the glasses you're wearing? They don't even have lenses in them.
10. The president was elected on a **platform** of change. Unfortunately, that's been pretty difficult to accomplish.

Content (Answers)

- 1 An alien/martian / Because he thought the car was a plane / shoot him
- 2 Younger
Still a bully
- 3
- 4 Because his coat looks like a life jacket.
- 5 Marty says he will be mayor.
- 6