

## Back to the Future, Chapter 4: Lorraine

### 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) Well, you're **safe and sound** now back in good old 1955. (p. 66)
- b) You've got a big **bruise** on your head. (p. 68)
- c) He's in one of his **mood**. (p. 70)
- d) Oh, honey, he's **teasing** you. (p.72)
- e) He's an idiot. Comes from **upbringing**. (p.74)
- f) Look at my birthday **for cryin' out loud**. (p. 76)
- g) ...that's when you **came up with** the idea for the flux capacitor ... (p. 78)
- h) Thank God. I've still got my hair. But what **on earth** is this thing I'm wearing?  
(p. 80)
- i) ...it's a little hard to **come by**. (p. 82)
- j) Marty, that is completely **outta\* the question**. (p. 84)

\* = usually written "out of"

*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. Despite a very poor \_\_\_\_\_, he worked extremely hard and became a very successful businessman later in his life.
2. I'm sorry, but I won't lend you my car—that's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Oh, \_\_\_\_\_, stop your complaining!
4. I don't know how I got this \_\_\_\_\_ on my arm, but it really hurts!
5. Why \_\_\_\_\_ did you pay so much money for a pair of sneakers?
6. My friends kept \_\_\_\_\_ me about my new haircut.
7. As a student, money can be hard to \_\_\_\_\_ without a job.
8. She \_\_\_\_\_ an idea for an application for studying English.
9. After the car broke down it took us ten hours, but we finally got home \_\_\_\_\_.
10. My professor was in a bad \_\_\_\_\_ because no one completed the homework.

## **Back to the Future, Chapter 4: Lorraine**

### **Content**

1. Why does Lorraine think that Marty's name is "Calvin"?
2. Does Sam know who John F. Kennedy is? Why or why not?
3. What is Doc testing when Marty arrives at his house that night?
4. Whom does Marty tell Doc is president of the United States in 1985? Does Doc believe him? Why or why not?
5. How did Doc get the bruise on his head? Why does Marty know this?
6. How much electricity does the time machine need to work?
7. What plan do they come up with to get the necessary amount of electricity?
8. Why does Doc tell Marty that he must not leave the house?

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### Discussion

1. In this chapter, Marty tells Doc about his accident where he fell off the toilet and ended up coming up with the idea for the flux capacitor, which allows for time travel. What is the most significant accident that has occurred to you? Did it have a positive or negative impact on you?
2. Doc finds the idea that an actor becomes president of the United States absurd. What are some true things about the world today you think might sound absurd to someone thirty years ago?
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3. Doc says that anything Marty does (in 1955) can have “serious repercussions” on future events. He’s suggesting that Marty should not change the past and affect the future. If you could go back to your or your family’s past, is there anything you *would* like to change? If so, what, and why would you want to change that?
4. If you were in Doc’s place (i.e., if you met someone who had come back in time from the future), what would you ask them about the future?
5. On seeing himself on video as an old man, Doc is relieved that he still has his hair. Try to imagine yourself thirty years in the future. What do you think you will be like?
6. What do you think you can do in your life now that will have the biggest effect on your future?

## Back to the Future, Chapter 4: Lorraine

### Vocabulary (Answers)

1. Despite a very poor **upbringing**, he worked very hard and became a very successful businessman later in his life.
2. I'm sorry, but I won't lend you my car – that's **out of the question**.
3. Oh, **for crying out loud**, stop your complaining!
4. I don't know how I got this **bruise** on my arm, but it really hurts!
5. Why **on earth** did you pay so much money for a pair of sneakers?
6. My friends kept **teasing** me about my new haircut.
7. As a student, money can be hard to **come by** without a job.
8. She **came up with** an idea for an application for studying English.
9. After the car broke down it took us ten hours, but we finally got home **safe and sound**.
10. My professor was in a bad **mood** because no one completed the homework.

### Content (Answers)

1. His underwear says "Calvin Klein" ("designer" underwear had not yet appeared in 1955).
2. No, he doesn't. Kennedy was not famous yet.
3. He's testing a device he hopes will let him read other people's minds/thoughts. He's disappointed it doesn't seem to work.
4. Marty tells Doc that Ronald Reagan (in 1955, famous as an actor in western movies) is president. Doc doesn't believe him; he finds the idea that an actor would become president absurd. (Before Reagan was elected president, he first became governor of California, but he was the first former actor to become president of the U.S.)
5. He was standing on the toilet to hang a clock, and fell and hit his head on the sink. Marty knows this because Doc told him the story in the future, explaining how he came up with the idea for the flux capacitor.
6. 1.21 gigawatts. (If students ask Marty's question – "What the hell is a gigawatt?" – a gigawatt is one billion watts (that's a US billion:10<sup>9</sup>). For reference, a standard light bulb usually requires less than a hundred watts.)
7. Marty knows that lightning is going to strike the clock tower in town at 10:04 p.m. the following Saturday. They plan to harness the power of the lightning.
8. He says that anything Marty might do in 1955 can have "serious repercussions" on future events (i.e., change Marty's future life in 1985) in a negative way.