

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



free Audiobook



Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

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n. track

end



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Lewis Carroll (Rev. C. L. Dodgson) c. 1865.

Lewis Carroll

Lewis Carroll's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He was born on 27 January 1832 in the village of Daresbury in Cheshire, central England. He had three brothers and seven sisters.

In 1843 the Dodgson family moved to Croft in Yorkshire, in the north of England. They had a large house, a big garden and servants. When Charles was a young boy he learned to read and write at home, and he loved reading. He also liked entertaining his family. He wrote stories and created games for his brothers and sisters.

In 1846 Charles went to Rugby School in northern England. This was a difficult time for him because he was not very good at sports and he did not make any friends. But he did very well in his studies, especially in mathematics.

In 1851 he went to Christ Church College, Oxford, to study mathematics. He was the perfect Victorian young man because he was religious and worked hard. He was often by himself because he did not like being with other adults. When he finished his studies in 1854, he began teaching mathematics at Oxford. He was not a popular teacher because he was quite serious and not very interested in his students.

Carroll was interested in the new art form of photography. He became famous for his photographs of children and famous people of the time. He was also a writer. His two most famous books are *Alice's*

Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871). The inspiration for these two fantastic stories was a real little girl called Alice Liddell. Carroll was a friend of the Liddell family and first met Alice in April 1856. He often went to the Liddell house to photograph Alice and her two sisters. He liked creating stories for the three sisters, and two of these stories became *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*.



Alice and the Pack of Cards,
illustration by John Tenniel, 1865.



Sir John Tenniel was one of the best illustrators of the time and he illustrated the two books with wonderful pictures. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* became immediately popular. It was very different from the other children's books of the time. It did not try to teach children to be good and study hard. In fact, it often made fun of school and adults.

During Carroll's life the two books sold 180,000 copies. This was a very large number for the time. He earned enough money to buy a house for his unmarried sisters. In 1881 he stopped teaching mathematics but he still stayed at Christ Church College.

Carroll continued to entertain children for the rest of his life. He died on 14 January 1898 at his sisters' house.

PET 1 Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct put a tick (✗) in the box under B for NO.

T F

1 Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's real name was Lewis Carroll.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 When Carroll was a young boy he did not go to school.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 He was a very good student at Rugby College.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 He made many friends at Christ Church College.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 He studied the new art form of photography at Oxford.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Alice Liddell was Carroll's inspiration for his two most popular books.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Sir John Tenniel was another great Victorian writer.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Carroll continued to teach mathematics until his death in 1898.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Characters



From left to right: the Cheshire Cat, the March Hare, the Caterpillar, the Duchess, Alice, the Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter.

Before you read**1 Vocabulary**

Match the pictures with the correct word.

A Pineapple**B** Bat**C** Roast turkey**D** Cherry tart1 2 3 4 **PET****2 Listening**Listen to the first part of Chapter One and choose the correct answer
– A, B or C.

1 Why didn't Alice like her sister's book?

A It was too long.
 B It didn't have any pictures.
 C It had too many pictures.

2 What did the white rabbit take out of its pocket?

A a gold key
 B a book with pictures
 C a watch

3 What was the rabbit-hole like?

A a long road
 B a long tunnel
 C a long room

4 Who was Dinah?

A Alice's cat
 B Alice's sister
 C Alice's dog

5 Where was the gold key?

A in Alice's pocket
 B on a glass table
 C in the rabbit's pocket



CHAPTER ONE

The White Rabbit



One sunny afternoon Alice and her sister were sitting by the river. Alice's sister was reading a book but Alice didn't have anything to do. She looked at her sister's book but there weren't any pictures in it.

'A book without pictures is boring,' thought Alice. It was a hot summer day and Alice was beginning to feel a bit sleepy.

Suddenly a white rabbit with pink eyes appeared and ran past her saying, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I'm going to be late!'

When the rabbit took a watch out of his pocket and looked at it, Alice jumped up and followed it across the field. As soon as she saw it jump down into a big rabbit hole, she decided to jump down, too. The rabbit hole was like a long tunnel.





CHAPTER ONE

‘Either this tunnel is very long or I’m falling very slowly,’ thought Alice. She started looking around and thinking. On the sides of the tunnel she saw pictures, maps, cupboards and many other interesting things.

Down, down, down. ‘Perhaps I’m near the centre of the earth,’ Alice thought. ‘That’s about...four thousand miles¹ down, I think.’ Alice learned this at school.

‘Hmm...perhaps I’ll fall through the earth,’ she thought. ‘And on the other side of the earth I’ll see people walking with their heads pointing down! Then I’ll ask them the name of the country: “Excuse me, is this Australia or New Zealand?” Oh no, I can’t ask because they’ll think I don’t know anything. Perhaps I’ll see the name of the country on a sign.’

Down, down, down. Soon Alice began talking. ‘Poor Dinah! She’ll miss me tonight!’ (Dinah was her cat). ‘Dinah, my dear! Why aren’t you here with me? There are no mice, but there are bats.

Alice became very sleepy and continued saying, ‘Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?’ and sometimes, ‘Do bats eat cats? Now, Dinah, tell me the truth. Have you ever eaten a bat?’

Thump! Suddenly Alice stopped falling and was sitting on some dry leaves.

She was not hurt and started looking around. Above her it was dark and in front of her was another long tunnel. She saw the white rabbit again and it was running down the tunnel. It suddenly disappeared. Alice ran after it and soon she was in a long, low room. There were lamps hanging from the roof and doors all around the room. Alice tried to open the doors but she couldn’t open any of them because they were locked.

1. **four thousand miles** : about 6,000 kilometres (1 mile = 1.6093 km).

‘Oh dear,’ Alice thought, ‘how can I get out of here?’

Then she saw a little glass table with a little gold key on it. She took the key and tried to open all the doors with it, but the key was either too big or too small. She suddenly noticed a low curtain and behind it there was a little door about fifteen inches² high. The gold key opened the door!

Alice looked inside and saw a long, low tunnel; at the end of the tunnel there was a beautiful garden with lovely flowers.

‘I want to go to that garden,’ Alice thought, ‘but the tunnel is too small. What can I do?’

She turned around and looked at the glass table again, and now there was a little bottle on it.

‘This little bottle wasn’t there before,’ said Alice, looking at the bottle. ‘There’s a label on it that says *Drink me*.’

However, Alice didn’t drink it immediately. First she looked to see if the word ‘poison’ was on the bottle. She knew that some very bad things can happen to children when they don’t remember simple rules. For example: Do not drink from a bottle marked ‘poison’ because it will probably hurt you.

The word ‘poison’ was not on this bottle, so Alice drank a little from it.

‘It tastes very good,’ she thought, ‘like cherry tart, pineapple, roast turkey and toast with butter.’ She drank all of it.

‘How strange!’ she said. She started getting smaller and smaller. Soon she was only ten inches tall.

‘Now I can go through the door and into the beautiful garden,’ she said happily. But she waited a moment and thought, ‘Perhaps I’ll become smaller again.’

2. **fifteen inches** : about 40 centimetres (1 inch = 2.5 cm).



end



CHAPTER ONE

After a few minutes nothing happened and so Alice decided to go into the garden. When she got to the door she didn't have the gold key. She went to the glass table to get it, but now she was too small. She couldn't reach the key!

Alice was sad, and sat down and cried.

'Oh, stop crying!' Alice said to herself. 'Stop it right now!' Alice usually gave herself good advice but she didn't always follow it.

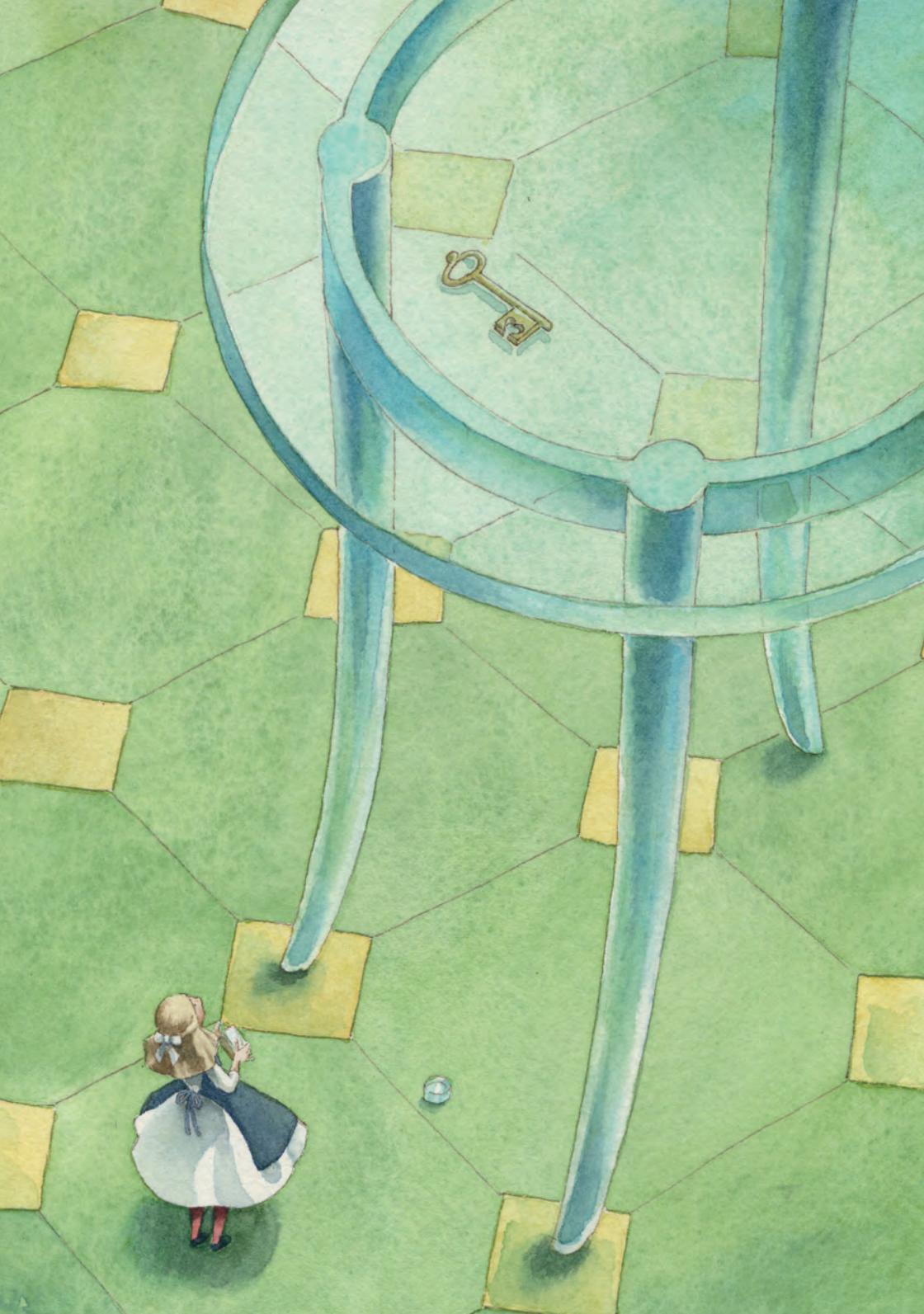
She looked at the table and saw a glass box under it. Inside the box there was a cake with the words, '*Eat me*' on it.

'Well, I'll eat it!' said Alice. 'Maybe I'll grow bigger and then I can reach the key on the table. Or perhaps I'll grow smaller and then I can go *under* the door.'

Alice ate a little bit of cake and said to herself, 'Which way? Which way?' She was surprised because she didn't change size. Of course, nothing usually happens when you eat cake.

'This is boring and stupid,' said Alice, who was disappointed. 'Nothing extraordinary is happening.'

So she began to eat the cake again and soon she finished it.



The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Match the phrases 1-9 to the phrases A-L to make complete sentences about Chapter One. There are three phrases from A-L that you do not need to use.

- 1 Alice and her sister were sitting by the river
- 2 Alice could see maps, pictures, cupboards and other things
- 3 There were a lot of doors all around the long, low room
- 4 Alice saw a lovely garden at the end of the tunnel
- 5 Alice got smaller and smaller
- 6 Alice wanted to go into the lovely garden
- 7 Alice told herself
- 8 Under the table Alice found
- 9 Alice ate the cake

A but they were all locked.

B to stop crying immediately.

C on a hot summer day.

D to stop laughing immediately.

E after she drank from the little bottle.

F a cherry tart.

G on the sides of the long tunnel.

H but she was too small and could not get the key on the table.

I but nothing happened.

J reading an interesting book.

K but she couldn't enter because she was too big.

L a box with a cake inside.

**2 Sentence transformation**

For each question complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 There were only a few chairs in the room.

There weren't many chairs in the room.

1 Alice's sister prefers reading to working in the garden.

Alice's sister likes reading working in the garden.

2 Alice was the only person in the long tunnel.

There was in the long tunnel except Alice.

3 The old man lived alone.

The old man with anyone.

4 London has some beautiful parks.

In London beautiful parks.

5 Alice and her family live near the school.

Alice and her family don't live the school.

6 French is the subject Alice likes best.

French is subject.

3 Nouns and adjectives

A Fill in the table with the missing noun or adjective.

NOUN	ADJECTIVE
1 sleep
2	friendly
3 happiness
4	hungry
5 beauty
6	healthy
7 sadness
8	angry
9 thirst
10	interesting

B Now write five sentences using nouns or adjectives in the table.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

A Match the word with the correct picture.

A Eagle

D Dodo

G Magpie

B Hippopotamus

E Walrus

H Crab

C Canary

F Parrot



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

B Answer the question: Which animal is extinct?



2 Listening

track 03

Listen to the first part of Chapter Two and decide if the statement is true (T) or false (F).

T F

1 Alice's feet were so far away that she couldn't see them well.

2 Alice was crying because she couldn't find her shoes and socks.

3 The white rabbit and the Duchess, who was elegantly dressed, were walking together.

4 Alice didn't go into the garden because she couldn't reach the key on the glass table.

5 Alice was swimming in a pool of tears with a mouse.

6 The mouse understood Alice when she spoke French.