
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant

27: Fashion

NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Mary

It's quiet without Gordon today.

Ceilia

It's nice isn't it! He said he was going for a fitting but I'm not sure what for though. Ahh, here he comes now.

Mary

Good morning Gordon. Bad hair day?!

Gordon

Excuse me?

Ceilia

Keep your hair on! Don't forget we've got some students coming in for lunch today so none of your **old-fashioned** dishes... give them something contemporary – modern.

Gordon

Leave it to me. I'm **down with the kids**.

Mary

You've got it *covered!*

Gordon

Yes I have... oh I see, you're referring to this... my new toupee... my wig. I'm just keeping up with the fashion.

Mary

And what fashion is that then?

Gordon

A new hair style – these are **all the rage** – the women love it.

Mary

After a fashion.

Ceilia

I thought that wigs were a bit... **old hat**. And if you are going to cook in that, then wear it *under* this hat, for now

Gordon

I knew you two couldn't handle my new **fashion statement**.

Ceilia

You're being a **fashion victim** – we liked the old you.

Gordon

Well you're stuck with the new me now. Just leave me to cook!

Mary

Ooops, looks like you've made a **fashion faux pas**...

Ceilia

... there appears to be hair in the soup!

Peter

Hair in the soup? Keep your voice down... everyone will want one.

Vocabulary

old-fashioned

not modern or fashionable

down with the kids

behaving and thinking as a young person would

all the rage

very popular

after a fashion

only to some extent

old hat

not modern; boring

a fashion statement

something you wear to show others you know a lot about fashion

a fashion victim

a person who wears fashionable clothes even if they don't suit them

a fashion faux pas

a mistake related to wearing clothes that look stupid or silly

Questions

1. What type of food does Ceilia want Gordon to make for the younger customers?

(Hint: Look for words that describe something new.)

- a) Old-fashioned and traditional.
- b) Modern and contemporary.
- c) Something fashionable.

2. What does Gordon say to mean wearing a wig is very popular?

(Hint: Check the vocabulary reference.)

- a) They're all the rage.
- b) They're in a rage.
- c) They're raging good.

3. Who thinks Gordon is trying to wear something fashionable even though it doesn't suit him?

(Hint: Who said he was a 'fashion victim'?)

- a) Mary
- b) Peter
- c) Ceilia

Answers

1. What type of food does Ceilia want Gordon to make for the younger customers?

a) Old-fashioned and traditional.

Wrong. She wants something the complete opposite.

b) Modern and contemporary.

That's right. Well done.

c) Something fashionable.

Not correct. That doesn't really describe a type of food.

2. What does Gordon say to mean wearing a wig is very popular?

a) They're all the rage.

Correct. Yes, that's the phrase.

b) They're in a rage.

Wrong. That's not quite right.

c) They're raging good.

Wrong. There's no such phrase.

3. Who thinks Gordon is trying to wear something fashionable even though it doesn't suit him?

a) Mary

Wrong. Have another go.

b) Peter

Not correct. He didn't say that.

c) Ceilia

Correct. She said he was a 'fashion victim'.