

BBC Learning English

How to ...

Be vague – Quiz



bbclearningenglish.com

For each question, make a vague statement.

1: I left ... things at the office last night.

a: One of two

b: One or two

c: One and two

2: There are a couple of ... in the speech we need to talk about.

a: bits

b: bit

c: stuff

3: It's ... three o'clock now.

a: approximately

b: sort of

c: about

4: There are ... people on the bus.

a: fifty-odd

b: kind of fifty

c: the odd fifty

5: I usually eat lunch at

a: one around

b: one-odd

c: oneish

6: She has ... hair.

a: about reddish

b: red-odd

c: sort of reddish

ANSWERS

1: I left ... things at the office last night.

a: One of two

Wrong – this doesn't make sense here.

b: One or two

Correct – 'one or two' means 'a few'.

c: One and two

Wrong – this doesn't make sense here.

2: There are a couple of ... in the speech we need to talk about.

a: bits

Correct – 'bit' is a vague word for a part of something.

b: bit

Wrong – 'a couple' means that we need a plural here.

c: stuff

Wrong – 'stuff' is a non-count noun, so this should be 'There is some stuff...'

3: It's ... three o'clock now.

a: approximately

Wrong – this word is usually used in written, not spoken, English.

b: sort of

Wrong – 'sort of' is used with descriptions, not numbers.

c: about

Correct – we can use 'about' to give a vague idea of the time.

4: There are ... people on the bus.

a: fifty-odd

Correct – there are around fifty people on the bus.

b: kind of fifty

Wrong – 'kind of' is used with descriptions, not numbers.

c: the odd fifty

Wrong – the sentence is plural. You can say 'The odd one' which means 'occasionally', e.g. 'The odd weekend, I go fishing.'

5: I usually eat lunch at

a: one around

Wrong – ‘around’ and ‘about’ come before the time.

b: one-odd

Wrong – we can’t use ‘-odd’ for talking about the time.

c: oneish

Correct – this is an informal way to talk about the time vaguely.

6: She has ... hair.

a: about reddish

Wrong – Use ‘about’ with numbers, not descriptions.

b: red-odd

Wrong – Use ‘odd’ with numbers, not descriptions.

c: sort of reddish

Correct – this is a natural way to describe a colour that is vaguely red.