

The Haircut

It was time for a haircut. Lenny didn't even have to look in the mirror. Even though he was going bald, he knew that he needed to cut his hair every two weeks.

He had a "tongue" of hair on the top of his head. His hair was thinning at the crown. He still had plenty of hair on the sides and back. It was what they call "salt and pepper," a mixture of gray hair and dark brown hair. It was only a few years, he figured, until the salt and pepper became just salt.

He never let his hair grow for more than two weeks. The longer it got, the worse it looked, he thought.

He spread a newspaper over the bathroom sink so that no hair went down the drain. He plugged in the clippers and started cutting his hair. He started at the back of his head, went to the sides, and finished on the top. Every minute or so, he had to clean the hair out of the blades with an old toothbrush.

Finished, he picked up a hand mirror to check out the back of his head. Everything looked okay. He carried the newspaper back out to the kitchen and shook the hair clippings into the trash can.

Then he took a shower.

VOCABULARY

bald [bawld] **Show IPA**

adjective

1.

having little or no hair on the scalp: a bald head; a bald person.

2.

destitute of some natural growth or covering: a bald mountain.

3.

lacking detail; bare; plain; unadorned: a bald prose style.

4.

open; undisguised: a bald lie.

5.

Zoology . having white on the head: the bald eagle.

clip·per [klip-er] Show IPA

noun

1.

a person or thing that clips or cuts.

2.

Often, clippers. (often used with a plural verb) a cutting tool, especially shears: hedge clippers.

3.

Usually, clippers. (usually used with a plural verb) a mechanical or electric tool for cutting hair, fingernails, or the like: He told the barber, "No clippers on the sides, please."

4.

Nautical . Also called clipper ship. a sailing ship built and rigged for speed, especially a type of three-masted ship with a fast hull form and a lofty rig, built in the U.S. from c1845, and in Great Britain from a later date, until c1870, and used in trades in which speed was more important than cargo capacity.

5.

Electronics. a device that gives output only for an input above or below a certain critical value.

crown [kroun] Show IPA

noun

1.

any of various types of headgear worn by a monarch as a symbol of sovereignty, often made of precious metal and ornamented with valuable gems.

2.

a similar ornamental headgear worn by a person designated king or queen in a pageant, contest, etc.

3.

an ornamental wreath or circlet for the head, conferred by the ancients as a mark of victory, athletic or military distinction, etc.

4.

the distinction that comes from a great achievement.

5.

the power or dominion of a sovereign.

drain [dreyn] Show IPA

verb (used with object)

1.

to withdraw or draw off (a liquid) gradually; remove slowly or by degrees, as by filtration: to drain oil from a crankcase.

2.

to withdraw liquid gradually from; make empty or dry by drawing off liquid: to drain a crankcase.

3.

to exhaust the resources of: to drain the treasury.

4.

to deprive of strength; tire.

verb (used without object)

5.

to flow off gradually.

6.

to become empty or dry by the gradual flowing off of liquid or moisture: This land drains into the Mississippi.

mir-ror [mir-er] Show IPA

noun

1.

a reflecting surface, originally of polished metal but now usually of glass with a silvery, metallic, or amalgam backing.

2.

such a surface set into a frame, attached to a handle, etc., for use in viewing oneself or as an ornament.

3.

any reflecting surface, as the surface of calm water under certain lighting conditions.

4.

Optics. a surface that is either plane, concave, or convex and that reflects rays of light.

5.

something that gives a minutely faithful representation, image, or idea of something else:
Gershwin's music was a mirror of its time.

plug [pluhg] Show IPA

noun

1.

a piece of wood or other material used to stop up a hole or aperture, to fill a gap, or to act as a wedge.

2.

a core or interior segment taken from a larger matrix.

3.

Electricity . a device to which may be attached the conductors of a cord and which by insertion in a jack, or screwing into a receptacle, establishes contact.

4.

spark plug (def 1) .

5.

a fireplug or hydrant.