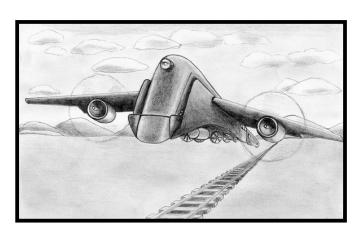
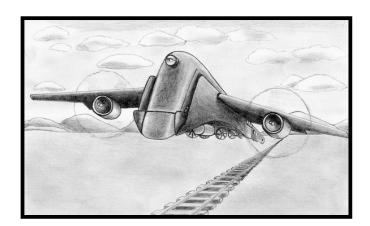
Vocabulary Building Exercises Absurdities



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Vocabulary Builders (Entry Level)



Absurdities: Language Activities and Vocabulary Builder

A Friendly Reminder

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Introduction

As a school-based clinician I have needed to be efficient and prudent in what therapy resources I use. What have worked best are activities that are simple to use, language rich, and can be completed in a 30-minute session.

The **Vocabulary building absurdities** program was born out of my clinical experience. Separate language systems, such as semantics, pragmatics, and morphology work best when integrated together as a whole.

By targeting one language difficulty you often indirectly target multiple language systems. The program is at core a **vocabulary builder**, but targets other language skills such as listening to instructions. It also promotes inference and **thinking skills**.

The scenarios featured in the game are absurdities. That is, they are impossibilities or oddities that do not exist in the real world.

Your students' task is to first identify the impossibility and then provide an **alternative answer**. Each separate scenario comes complete with several questions. The questions are designed to further explore your students' understanding of the individual scenarios, and prompt **comprehension**.

Absurdities Scenarios

Transport: 20 scenarios related to different forms of transport

Animals: 20 scenarios concerning the animal kingdom

Food: 20 scenarios about food and eating habits

Tools: 20 scenarios devoted to tools

Hygiene: 20 scenarios related to hygiene and cleanin

Good Questioning Techniques

Avoid yes/no questions, as they only require a simple response. The best questions are *what/why* questions. *What/why* questions tend to be *open-ended*. That is, the student is compelled to provide a detailed response with more information.

Choice and contrast questions are an excellent way of giving the student choices to think about.

Question to the student's response. After you have asked a question and received a response use the student's response to probe for more information. This does require a bit of practice but can produce good results.



Good Questioning Technique - Example

This is a real life example, and demonstrates the questioning technique as used with an eight-year-old child.

Clinician: Reads from sheet 'I put the blue ink on my hairbrush and began to brush my teeth.'

<u>Question from scenario:</u> 'What's silly about this sentence? (Open-ended Question)

Student: 'You use toothpaste to brush your teeth.'

Clinician: 'That's right. Great answer. Also, listen to this, '...I put my blue ink on my **hairbrush**. Would we use a hairbrush to brush our teeth, or something else?'
(Open-ended Question)

Student: Child is silent and not sure what to say

Clinician: 'Do we use a toothbrush or hairbrush to brush our teeth?' (Choice and Contrast)

Student: 'You use a toothbrush to brush your teeth.'

Clinician: Question on card: 'What would happen if we used blue ink to brush our teeth?' (Open-ended question)

Student: 'Don't know.'

Clinician: Well, would our teeth turn blue, or would they stay white?' (Choice and Contrast Question)

Student: 'They would be blue and all yucky.'

Clinician: "Yeah they would wouldn't they?' 'What else is yucky and could make our teeth blue?' (Open-Ended Question and Question to Student's Response)

Student: 'Blue paint'

The scuba diver dived out of the plane and	Dad parked his truck in the car park. He	The submarine drove down the town's
flew through the air.	cast out the anchor so the truck wouldn't	main street.
What's silly about this sentence? What should we wear if we dive out of an airplane? Where does a scuba diver go?	drift. What's silly about this story? What type of transport uses an anchor? What is a truck used for?	What's silly about this sentence? Can a submarine leave the water? Does a submarine have wheels?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Transport</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>
My dad filled the car's fuel tank with water.	The scuba diver always wore his parachute when he dived into the ocean.	The astronauts journeyed to the moon on the hot air balloon.
What's silly about this sentence? What do we normally put in a car's engine to make it run? Will a car's engine work if we use water instead of fuel?	What's silly about this sentence? Why wouldn't we wear a parachute in the water? When would we need a parachute?	What's silly about this sentence? Can a hot air balloon reach the moon? What might astronauts use to travel to the moon?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Transport</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities $\underline{\textit{Transport}}$

The astronauts parachuted back to earth	Our family decided to paddle a canoe to	Santa rode the bus from the North Pole so
from the space shuttle.	New Zealand from Australia.	his reindeer could rest this Christmas.
What's silly about this sentence? Why is it impossible for an astronaut to parachute to earth? What starting with At protects the earth from outer space?	What's silly about this sentence? Why would it be silly to paddle a canoe to New Zealand? Where, staring with Air do we board an aircraft?	What's silly about this sentence? Why would Santa not take the bus? What do Santa's reindeer usually tow?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u><i>Transport</i></u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>
I packed the grand piano into its case and	Dad made a new car out of wood and	My father took me to school in his
carried it home on my bike.	nails.	helicopter.
What's silly about this sentence? Why would it be impossible to pack a piano into a case? What's a small musical instrument you could safely carry on your bike?	What's silly about this sentence? What are cars normally made from? What's a tool we use with wood and nails?	What's silly about this sentence? Do children go to school in an airplane? How do you normally get to school?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>

Mark needed to go to Japan, so he climbed	A helicopter can go underwater and search	The passenger jet landed on the water and
into a cannon and was blasted there.	the bottom of the ocean.	taxied to the water dock.
What's silly about this sentence? What do we use to travel to other countries? Why is it dangerous to be shot out of a cannon?	What's silly about this sentence? What type of machine can go underwater? What can a helicopter do that makes it special?	What's silly about this sentence? Where does an airplane usually land? What transport drops off its passengers at a dock?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u><i>Transport</i></u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Transport</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>
The cyclist rode his bike over the cliff. His	The robbers drove off in the getaway car.	The fire trucks arrived just in time for the
bike spread its wings and flew high into	The police jumped on their bicycles and	firemen to start the fire.
the sky.	pedalled after them.	
What's silly about this story? Why don't bikes have wings? Why might it be fun to have a flying bike?	What's silly about this story? What type of vehicle would police use to chase criminals? What type of vehicle do police use?	What's silly about this sentence? What do firemen usually do to a fire? What colour are fire trucks?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Transport</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Transport</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Transport</u>

The big truck broke down. Therefore the truck driver tied the freight trailer to his bicycle and started pedalling.

What's silly about this story?

Can a bicycle pull a truck's freight load?

What other transport starting with tr_____

carts freight?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Transport

The pilot had to wait until the cars finished crossing the airstrip before he could take off in his jet.

What's silly about this sentence?
Where does a plane take off from?
Why couldn't a jet take off on a city road?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Transport</u>

The lion swam hard to get the fish but was	The farmer rode his lion around the	The duck flew so fast it rocketed past the
beaten to it by the seal.	paddocks to muster the sheep herd.	jet fighter at supersonic speed.
What's silly about this sentence? What are two mammals that catch and eat fish? Where might we normally find a lion? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals The bat dove into the water and caught the fish in its mouth.	What's silly about this sentence? What might happen to a farmer if he tried to ride a lion? Why wouldn't we allow a lion around a sheep herd? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals The ferocious sheep chased the crocodile up a tree.	What's silly about this sentence? Can a duck really fly at supersonic speed? What other bird starting with sw swims like a duck? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals The polar bear and the elephant ate grass together under the hot African sun.
What's silly about this story? Do bats live in caves or in the ocean? What sea bird starting with Pen eats fish and is a good swimmer? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals	What's silly about this sentence? Why wouldn't a sheep chase a crocodile? Name 3 types of animals that can climb trees	What's silly about this sentence? Why don't we see polar bears in Africa? Why would an elephant get cold in the Arctic snow?

The penguin can run very quickly when it	The goat climbed up the tree and got stuck	The sheep is a fierce and dangerous
is chased by a lion.	in the branches.	hunter.
What's silly about this sentence? Can a penguin run fast? Why/why not? Why wouldn't a penguin and lion live in the same area?	What's silly about this story? Why can't a goat climb a tree? What sort of animal is good at climbing trees?	What's odd about this sentence? Name 2 predators dangerous to man? Why is a sheep not dangerous to man
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Animals</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Animals</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Animals</u>
We could see the shark's dorsal fin circle	The pigs neighed when the farmer brought	Our cat likes to sit in his cage all day and
us as we walked through the jungle.	them some fresh hay.	sing songs.
What's silly about this sentence? Where would we normally see a shark? Name a dangerous animal that lives in the jungle?	What's silly about this sentence? What type of farm animal neighs? What sound does a pig make?	What's silly about this sentence? What type of animal starting with b can sing? Can sound does a cat make?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Animals</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Animals</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Animals</i>

The farmer was proud of his cat as it	The giant octopus attacked the eagle as it	David went fishing on the pier and caught
rounded up the sheep.	flew high above the clouds.	a blue whale with his fishing rod.
What's odd about this sentence? What working animal, starting with d would a farmer use? Why wouldn't a cat make a very good cattle herder?	What's silly about this sentence? Can an octopus fly? Where might we see an octopus?	What's silly about this sentence? Can you catch a whale with a fishing rod? Is the blue whale the biggest animal on the planet?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Animals</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Animals</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Animals</i>
I was halfway across the city street when	We swam in our neighbour's pool. They	I trained my pet shark to fetch sticks and
the traffic light turned green and the cows	have a new giant octopus, which swims at	rollover.
began to run across. What's silly about this sentence? Do we see cows in the city? Where might we find cows?	the deep end. What's silly about this story? Why can't we put an octopus in a pool? What water does an octopus live in, fresh or saltwater?	What's silly about this sentence? Is a shark dangerous? What ocean based animal starting with Dol can be trained to perform tricks?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Animals</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Animals</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Animals</i>

The turtle is one of the fastest land animals in the world.

What's silly about this sentence?

What big cat starting with ch_____ is the fastest animal in the world?

What starting with sh_____ does a turtle live inside?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals

The camel is used as a pack animal for crossing areas of ice and snow.

What's silly about this sentence?

What animal starting with pen_____ lives in the ice and snow?

Where starting with des____ does a camel normally live?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Animals

Nicholas sprinkled coffee and poured cold	My favourite school lunch is broccoli	My dad likes two teaspoons of salt in his
gravy on his breakfast cereal.	sandwiches, washed down with carrot	coffee.
What's silly about this sentence? What's something we sprinkle on cereal? What white liquid do we normally pour on our cereal?	cordial. What's silly about this sentence? When would we normally have carrots and broccoli? What are 2 cordial flavours?	What's silly about this sentence? What do we normally use to sweeten drinks? How might a drink with salt in it taste, good or bad?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Food</u> My favourite sandwich is made with grass and leaves, topped with beetle paste.	Mum used a pair of chopsticks to eat her	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Food</u> Malcolm loves to eat lettuce and yoghurt sandwiches.
What's silly about this sentence? Why don't we have grass salad sandwiches? Is there such a thing called beetle paste?	What's silly about this sentence? Why wouldn't we use chopsticks for soup? For what meals might we use chopsticks?	What's silly about this sentence? What starting with sal would see lettuce used? Would a celery and yoghurt sandwich taste nice?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Food</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Food</u>

My favourite dessert is deep fried sausage	My mum cut the cabbage into chips and	My mum loves chocolate so much that
covered with ice cream and strawberry	we ate fried cabbage chips.	even her best jewellery is made from
topping.		chocolate.
	What's silly about this sentence?	What's silly about this sentence?
What's silly about this sentence?	What vegetable do we use to make chips?	What might happen to chocolate jewellery
Is sausage a dessert?	Would cabbage chips taste yummy?	if we wear it?
What are 2 types of fruit we might eat with		What's your favourite chocolate - milk or
ice cream?		dark chocolate?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Food</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Food</i>
Cassie ate her favourite pizza. It had	Paul put the orange in the toaster and	James spread salt on his toast and mustard
cheese, ice cream and chocolate sprinkles	then poured a glass of onion juice.	on his pancakes.
on it.		What's silly about this sentence?
What's silly about this story? What are two foods we might put on pizza? What might happen if we put ice cream on our pizza?	What's silly about this sentence? Can we put an orange in the toaster? Would onion juice taste yummy?	Why wouldn't we put salt on our toast? What's something sweet we may put on our pancakes?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Food</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Food</i>

Paul accidentally dropped a coin into his	Mum bought apples from the butcher, and	Dad made a big hot fire on the kitchen
glass of milk. He changed into his	some steaks from the baker.	table, and we sat around and toasted
swimming shorts and dived in to get it.		marshmallows.
What's silly about this story? Why is it impossible to dive into a glass of milk? How could you remove a coin from a glass of milk?	What's silly about this sentence? What sort of food do we buy from the butcher? What type of food do we buy from a baker?	What's silly about this sentence? Why would we never have a fire on the kitchen table? Where is a safe place to build a fire?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Food</u>
My favourite chips were being advertised	The best way to make a chocolate	Greg used a spoon to cut his steak and a
on telly. They are purple and taste like	milkshake is with milk, lettuce and ice	fork to eat his soup.
beetroot.	cream.	
What's silly about this sentence? Do chips taste like beetroot? Are chips purple?	What's silly about this sentence? Do we use lettuce to make a chocolate milkshake? What is your favourite milkshake? Why?	What's silly about this sentence? What should we use to cut our meat? Why would it be difficult to eat soup with a fork?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <i>Food</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Food</u>

Mum made a roast chicken, with steamed strawberries and chocolate gravy.

We had a lovely candle lit dinner using our new candles made from butter.

What's silly about this sentence?
What are type of food do we eat with roast chicken?

What's silly about this sentence?
What might happen to butter candles when lit?

Can we pour chocolate gravy on chicken?

What are candles usually made from?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Food

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Food

The boy flew his kite so high that the	I used an axe to cut the paper in two.	Nicole used the scissors to cut a slice of
string broke. The kite drifted and landed on the moon.		cake.
What's silly about this sentence? Can a kite fly to the moon? Why not? What kind of flying object could go to the moon?	What's silly about this sentence? What should we use to cut paper? What do we use an axe to cut?	What's silly about this sentence? Why would it be difficult to cut cake with scissors? What do we use to cut cake?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>
We climbed the mountain wearing our t- shirts and shorts. What's silly about this sentence? What sort of weather could we expect on a mountain, hot or cold? What sort of clothes might we wear to	The rock climbers climbed the mountain, using string to support their weight. What's silly about this sentence? Is string strong enough to support a person's weight? What, starting with R, should a rock	Sally put gloves on her feet and socks on her ears. What's silly about this sentence? On what part of our bodies do we wear gloves? Why would it be silly to wear socks on our
climb a mountain? 2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	climber use to support their weight? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	ears? 2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>

I put the ice cubes into the oven to freeze	My new wrist clock is able to tell time very	It's important to wear boxing gloves when
them.	well.	playing tennis.
What's silly about this sentence? Where do we usually freeze ice cubes? What might happen to ice cubes if we put them into an oven?	What's silly about this sentence? Why would it be difficult to wear a clock on your arm? Where would we normally see a clock?	What's silly about this sentence? What sport uses boxing gloves? Why do we not wear boxing gloves while playing tennis?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>
The dentist started up the chainsaw and said, 'Open wide.'	The dentist used a spanner to repair the tooth that had a cavity in it.	The dentist put a filling into the cut on my arm.
What's silly about this sentence? What might a dentist use to check our teeth? What do we use a chainsaw for?	What's silly about this sentence? Would a dentist use a spanner on a patient? What do we use a spanner for?	What's silly about this sentence? What might we use to heal a cut on the arm? What in our mouth, might a dentist put a filling in?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>

I rode my bike across the lake on my water tires.	Tom started the outboard motor on his surfboard and rode the waves.	My little brother made our new house out of sand using his bucket and spade.
What's odd about this sentence? Can you ride a bike on top of water? Why is it impossible to ride on top of water?	What's odd about this story? Does a surfboard have a motor? What do we use a surfboard for?	What's odd about this sentence? Can a real house be built from sand? What can you make using sand and a toy bucket and spade?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Tools</u> I raked the leaves from the Elm tree with	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Tools</u> The weather was hot so I turned on the	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Tools</u> I rode my bike home from school on a
my hair comb.	heater to cool down.	cold day. My mum gave me an ice cold
What's odd about this sentence? What outdoors tool do we use to rake leaves? Why don't we use hair combs to rake leaves?	What's odd about this story? What machine might we use to cool down? When would we use a heater?	drink to heat me up. What's odd about this story? What hot drink do you like to drink to warm you up? When is it best to have an ice cold drink?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Tools</u>

Dad mowed the lawn on the roof with his

lawn mower.

What's odd about this sentence?

Do people mow the roof?

Where do we use a lawn mower?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Tools

I drank my soup through a straw

What's silly about this sentence?
What do we use to eat soup with?
What do we use a straw for?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Tools

I put blue ink on my toothbrush and	My father got out the chainsaw and began	My hands were dirty so I washed them
brushed my teeth.	to cut my hair.	with butter.
What's odd about this sentence?	What's odd about this sentence?	What's odd about this sentence?
What would we normally use to brush our	What would we normally use the chainsaw	Why wouldn't we use butter to wash our
teeth?	to do?	hands?
What would happen if we used blue ink to	What might happen if we use a chainsaw	What do we use to wash our hands?
brush our teeth?	to cut our hair?	
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Hygiene</i>		2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>
,	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	
My hair was dirty so I washed it with eggs,	Dad got out the pliers to clip my finger	Mum put the dirty clothes in the kitchen
and used dishwashing detergent as	nails.	sink and the dirty dishes in the washing
conditioner.		machine.
What's silly about this sentence?	What's silly about this sentence?	What's odd about this sentence?
What could you use to wash and condition	Why don't we use pliers to trim our nails?	Why wouldn't we put dirty dishes in a
your hair?	What do we use to trim our finger nails?	washing machine?
Do we use eggs to wash our hair?		What should we wash dirty clothes in?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>

I put glue on my toothbrush and gave my	My mum sprayed whipped cream into her	Mum cleaned the dishes by placing them
teeth a good clean.	hair to help shape it.	in the backyard and spraying them with
What's odd about this sentence?	What's silly about this sentence?	the hose.
What could happen to our teeth if we were to use glue on our toothbrush? What are 2 things we use to brush our teeth?	What would happen to our hair if we put whipped cream in it? What do we use whipped cream for?	What's odd about this sentence? What's a good way to wash dishes? Do we use a hose to wash dishes?
2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <i>Hygiene</i>	2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>
Mum dried the dishes by hanging them on	Mum put the folded wet clothes in the	Mum got the mop and bucket and started
the clothesline.	cupboard to dry.	to scrub the carpet.
What's odd about this sentence? What usually hangs on the clothesline to dry? What is a good way to dry dishes?	What's odd about this sentence? Why wouldn't we put wet clothes in a cupboard to dry? How should we dry wet clothes?	What's odd about this sentence? What's something we might use to clean the carpet? What do we use a mop and bucket for?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>

My mother ran out of makeup. She used	My sister put cough mixture into the	My brother likes to use honey in his hair
crayons on her face instead.	washing machine to clean the clothes.	to help style it.
What's odd about this sentence? What do we use crayons for? Why wouldn't we use crayons on our skin?	What's odd about this sentence? Does cough mixture clean clothes? What do we normally wash clothes with?	What's odd about this sentence? What might happen to your hair if you put honey in it?
2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	2011 Vocabulary – Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	What <i>could</i> people put it their hair to help style and shape it? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>
Mum vacuumed the carpet with her new	My hands were dirty so I washed them	I had a bath in the kitchen sink and
hair dryer.	with orange juice.	washed my hair with dishwashing
What's odd about this sentence? What do we use a hair dryer for? What's the best way to vacuum a carpet? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	What's odd about this sentence? Why isn't orange juice used to clean hands? What do we use to dry our hands? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>	detergent. What's odd about this sentence? Where do we normally have a bath? Why don't we use dish-washing liquid to clean our hair? 2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities <u>Hygiene</u>

I went to bed in my muddy clothes because I was too tired to clean up. I couldn't find any dishwashing detergent so I used motor oil to clean the dishes.

What's odd about this sentence?
What should you do if you have muddy clothes?
What would your parents say if you went

to bed in muddy clothes?

What's odd about this sentence?
Why don't we use motor oil to wash dishes?
What else do we use to wash dishes?

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Hvaiene

2011 Vocabulary - Absurdities Hygiene