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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Alice in Wonderland

### Part 2: The pool of tears



*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### **Narrator**

Hello! Alice is having some very **curious** adventures at the bottom of a rabbit hole. She drank a drink that made her very small indeed. But she wants to grow bigger so that she can reach the key that will unlock the tiny door to a beautiful garden. After eating some cake she found in a little glass box, Alice started to feel something ...

#### **Alice**

Curiouser and curiouser! I'm growing! ... My feet are so far away. Goodbye feet! How will I put my shoes and socks on, I wonder? Ouch!

#### **Narrator**

Alice grew so big that her head hit the **ceiling!** It was easy to reach the table now. She picked up the tiny key and rushed to the door. But in her excitement, she forgot something again...

#### **Alice**

Ohhhh... this is hopeless! I'm much too big for this door now! I'll never get into the garden! I can only look through the door with one eye! Oh...

#### **Narrator**

Alice was over nine feet tall, and when a girl that big cries, the **tears** are big too. Alice cried and cried until half **the hall was filled with a salty pool of tears.** After a time, Alice heard a little pattering of feet in the distance. She dried her eyes to see what was coming.

#### **White Rabbit**

Oh! I'm late! I'm so very late! I was told to be early and I'm going to be late. The Duchess will be waiting. Oh my! Oh my! She will be so very angry with me! Oh my!

#### **Narrator**

The sight of The White Rabbit, **splendidly** dressed in his best clothes, and carrying a large **fan** and a pair of white leather gloves was enough to stop Alice's tears.

#### **Alice**

If you please, sir...

## **White Rabbit**

Oh!! Oh my!

## **Alice**

Don't go! I won't hurt – Oh dear! You've dropped your gloves... But look: what a pretty fan. And crying is such hot work. Oh, that's better. Oh dear... how strange everything is today. Yesterday things were normal. But today I'm not sure if I am the same girl who woke up this morning. But, if I'm not the girl who woke up this morning, the question is, "Who am I?"

## **Narrator**

Alice fanned herself while she talked. She felt much cooler. But after a minute or two, something started happening.

## **Alice**

Oh: Here's that feeling again.

## **Narrator**

Then something kept happening. Alice kept fanning herself.

## **Alice**

I don't believe it. I must be ... I am! I'm growing smaller again. Smaller than the table. Hello feet! It's good to see you again.

## **Narrator**

Soon Alice was smaller than ever. She was still **shrinking** and shrinking and she didn't know why.

## **Alice**

Oh dear - I'm getting very small. Oh... I'm getting much too small! Oh dear - I shall fade away altogether! Oh...! The fan? The fan!

## **Narrator**

Just in time. Alice threw the fan on the floor, so she wouldn't get any smaller.

## **Alice**

That was a lucky **escape!** But now I'm small enough to get into the garden!

## **Narrator**

Poor Alice! There she stood at the little door - but it was locked again. And there was the little key, back in its place, out of reach, on the table.

**Alice**

Oh not again! This is hopeless. I'll never get that key now. I so badly wanted to see the garden. And things are worse than ever - I've never been so small as this in my life. Never!

**Narrator**

Things were as bad as ever. And they were about to get worse ...

**Alice**

Ohhh!

**Narrator**

And poor little Alice fell into a pool of her own tears. Luckily, she knew how to swim. But she wasn't the only one who had fallen into the pool. Next time, Alice meets a dodo, tries to make friends with a mouse, and joins in a very, very curious race. Goodbye.

## **Vocabulary**

### **curious**

if you describe things as curious you mean they are strange; if you describe a person as curious, it means they're interested in everything

### **ceiling**

the top part of a room

### **tears**

the water that comes from your eyes when you cry

### **fan**

an object made of material or paper that you move up and down, or from side to side to make cold air

### **shrinking (verb: shrink)**

getting smaller

### **escape**

get away from a difficult or dangerous situation or place