

ESL CORE CYCLE 1
(Ask an Expert)
Student Booklet



Name: _____

Group: _____

Are you an expert? Not yet but very soon you will be one. In this learning and evaluation situation, you will become an expert on a very specific topic: Bedbugs! You will have to help someone by responding to a series of questions.

Structure of the “Ask an Expert” text

You text must respect a precise form.

1. The text from the inquirer including his questions.
2. A form of politeness (e.g. Dear.....) With the name found in the signature of the inquirer.
3. One paragraph per question.
4. A form of salutation (e.g. Good Luck)

Where will you get the information? From a series of texts which will make you “The Expert” on that topic. You must remember to organize the information in an interesting way and be creative.

Before we jump into our subject, let’s look at an example “Lice”. Remember you are not an expert on lice. Just look at the answers this expert on lice gave to Larry in Liceville.

Ask an Expert

1. Text from the person with the questions.

Question:

I think I have head lice. Other kids at my school have head lice. What are lice exactly? How does a person get head lice? What do I do if I have them? I washed my hair and am not sure what else I should do?

Larry in Liceville

Answer:

2. A form of politeness

Dear Larry

Answer to Q1.

Don't despair, Larry. Lice are very small insects. Although they feed on human blood, they are pretty harmless. They multiply fast and can be a lot of trouble. Nobody wants them as "head guests." ;-)

Answer to Q2.

Lots of students get lice around the time school photos are taken. They share hair combs and brushes, making it easy for the lice to travel from one head to the next. Sharing a pillow, a helmet or a hat can also pass on the lice.

Ask your parents to check for lice eggs, called "nits," which stick to individual hairs near your head. They should also check for lice in your hair, especially at the top of your neck and behind your ears where it's warm and head lice like to feed.

Answer to Q3.

If you have head lice, you may need to use a special shampoo to get rid of them. Consult a pharmacist for more information or check the Internet for solutions. Nits can be removed using a special comb.

Answer to Q3.

Good luck!

A form of salutation

Now that you understand the structure of an “Ask an Expert” text, it is time for you to become an expert on the subject of BEDBUGS. Read the following texts. Underline or highlight any interesting information.

BEDBUG

Fact Sheet



Bedbugs 101

Bedbugs are small, wingless insects that feed on the blood of humans. They are flat and brown, and about the size of apple seeds.

Actual size
of a
bedbug



When they feed on blood from humans, their bodies lengthen, swell and turn dark reddish-brown.

Bedbugs are found in many places in the world but they were not common in North America during the 1940s and 1950s when strong chemicals were used for pest control. These chemicals are no longer in use and bedbugs are making a comeback, particularly in large cities.

There is no evidence that bedbugs spread disease to humans, but they are trouble and can cause emotional stress.

What to Look For

Often the first sign that you have bedbugs is bites. Bedbugs bite to feed on human blood at night, when people are asleep. The bites turn into large, red bumps on the skin and become itchy.



Bedbug bites on face

Wikimedia Commons/
Andybrookestar

FACT: *Some people have allergic reactions to bedbug bites while others do not react to the bites.*

Small red stains on bed sheets are another sign. The bedbug’s victim may not stop bleeding right after being bitten. Bedbugs can also be crushed or leave dark spots on bed sheets from their droppings. You may also find old skins or the bedbugs themselves. Sometimes, when there are a lot of bedbugs, there is a sweet smell in the room.

Bedbugs aren’t easy to find because they’re good hiders. They are easier to find, however, if you know where to look for them.

WORD BOX

bite: (vb) to cut the skin to feed; (n) a cut made to feed
feed: to eat
itchy: irritates the skin and causes scratching
mattress: a thick cushion to sleep on in a bed
scratch: to rub the skin with fingers to stop the itching
stains: marks, spots
tidy: in order

Hiding Places

Bedbugs are found in a number of places where it is warm and they can hide. The following are some of their hiding places:

mattresses	picture frames
box springs	window frames
headboards	piles of clothes
furniture	carpets
curtains	computers
baseboards	televisions
cracks	books, etc.
loose wallpaper	

Feeding Habits

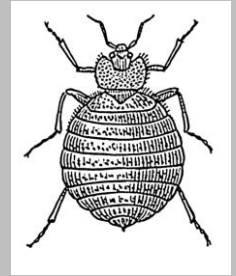
Bedbugs usually bite at night when humans are sleeping. Bites are not painful but can become itchy, swollen and cause scratching. Bedbug bites sometimes appear in a row in groups of three and are called “breakfast, lunch, and dinner.” There is no red spot in the centre as with flea bites. The most common feeding areas are the face, neck, upper body, arms and hands. In fact, any exposed skin not covered by clothing or bed sheets is fair game.

To feed, bedbugs pump a chemical into the skin that keeps the victim’s blood flowing. Later, this chemical makes the bite itch. They also inject an anesthetic so that the victim feels no pain. “Mealtime” takes about 3 to 12 minutes, after which the bedbug will hide to digest and sleep.

Fact: *An adult bedbug usually feed about once a week but can live for up to one year without eating.*

BEDBUG

Fact Sheet



Travelers and Multipliers

Bedbugs are not the result of uncleanliness. Even some of the cleanest, most beautiful homes and 5-star hotels have bedbugs.

Bedbugs are travellers. They enter homes on clothes and in luggage, boxes, backpacks, used furniture and mattresses. Once in a building, they can move from one room to the next or from one apartment to another.

Bedbugs also reproduce quickly. A female adult can lay as many as 200-400 eggs during her one-year life span. It takes about 10 days for eggs to hatch.

The important thing is to get rid of bedbugs as soon as possible because they travel and multiply fast.

FACT: *Most bedbugs are found within 8-10 feet of where people sleep.*

If You Have Bedbugs . . .

Getting rid of bedbugs isn't easy, but it is a problem that can be solved.

Vacuum floors and under carpets. Vacuum your mattress and box spring. Put the vacuum bag in an outside garbage can; otherwise, the bedbugs can reenter your home.

Wash bed sheets in hot water and put them in a hot dryer for 20 minutes. The same can be done for clothes.

Cover your mattress, box spring and pillows with vinyl covers to trap the bedbugs.

Wrap double-sided tape around bed legs, or place pans of oil and water under bed legs to catch bedbugs.

There are companies and products available to treat bedbug infestations.

In Future . . .

There are many things that you can do to avoid bringing bedbugs into your home.

Whenever you buy used furniture or secondhand clothes, check for eggs and bedbugs. Never put furniture that contains bedbugs out on the sidewalk for someone else to pick up and use in their home.

Whenever you stay in a hotel, check your hotel mattress, box spring and other furniture for bedbugs. Ask to change rooms if you find anything.

When travelling, keep your luggage and other items (purse, computer, clothes, etc.) off the bed and off the floor. Use a luggage rack.

When you return home, put your luggage in an isolated area, away from your bedroom. Check it for bedbugs and wash the clothes in it before bringing them to your room. Vacuum your luggage or wash it with hot water.

Keep your room tidy. Clothes and objects on the floor are popular hiding places for bedbugs.



Bedbug photo, above: Wikimedia Commons/Jiří Humpolíček
Bedbug drawings, pp. 1 & 2: Wikimedia Commons/Pearson Scott

Put a \checkmark to indicate if the statement is true or false.

	True	False
1. Bedbugs have wings.		
2. Bedbugs are making a comeback, especially in large cities.		
3. Bedbugs spread diseases to humans.		
4. Bedbugs bite mostly at night when we are sleeping.		
5. Bedbugs are easy to find.		
6. Bedbugs can be found in only one place.		
7. Bedbug bites are very painful.		
8. Bedbugs are the result of uncleanliness.		
9. Getting rid of bedbugs can be solved.		
10. Bedbugs are about the size of an apple seed.		

Answer the following questions. Two points per question. _____/10

1. What happens to bedbugs when they feed on human blood? _____

2. Name the 4 signs that may indicate the presence of bedbugs. _____

3. Name 3 places where bedbugs can hide in a house. _____

4. Why are bedbug bites often called breakfast, lunch and dinner? _____

5. How can we get rid of bedbugs? _____

PREPARE YOURSELF TO WRITE.

REINVESTMENT T-CHART Jot down information from the texts that students can reinvest in their “Ask an Expert” answers.		
Q1: How do I check for bedbugs in my room?	Q2: Should I clean my room more often so that they don't come back?	Q3: Should I throw out my pajamas and mattress?

	Observables	A 20	B 18-16	C 14-12	D 10-6	E 6-0
Use of knowledge from texts in a reinvestment task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Selection of information/ideas from texts relevant to the task. ➤ Coherence of organization of selected information/ideas. ➤ Combination of information/ideas and language selected in texts with own ideas and personal language. ➤ Use of text components/text features. ➤ Accurate use of information drawn from texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chooses all the relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • Organizes the ideas and information skillfully and coherently. • Skillfully combines information/ideas and language selected in texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • All the text features/components are present. • Use of the information is accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chooses relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • Organizes the ideas and information coherently. • Combines information/ideas and language selected in the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Most of the text features/components are present. • Use of the information is accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chooses some relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • The organization lacks cohesion in areas of the text. • Sometimes combines information/ideas and language selected from the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Some of the text features/components are present. • Some of the information is inaccurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chooses very few relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • The organization lacks cohesion throughout the text. • Rarely combines information/ideas and language selected in the texts with own ideas and personal language repertoire. • Very few text features/components are present. • Information if any is inaccurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not choose relevant information/ideas to answer the questions. • The organization is confusing to the reader. • Delivers a product which does not correspond to the task