

How long have you been in the Navy?

All me bloomin' life, sir!

Me mother was a mermaid, me father was King Neptune.

I was born on the crest of a wave and rocked in the cradle of the deep.

Seaweed and barnacles are me clothes.

Every tooth in me head s a marlinspike; the hair on me head is hemp.

Every bone in me body is a spar, and when I spits, I spits tar!

I'se hard, I is, I am, I are!

For generations, upper-class midshipmen have been asking this question of plebes. And every new class of plebes claims this auspicious seafaring lineage. It's a rate they must memorize.