

# 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.