

## A Bear called Paddington

Mr and Mrs Brown first met Paddington on a railway platform. In fact, that was how he came to have such an unusual name for a bear, for Paddington was the name of the station.

The Browns were there to meet their daughter Judy, who was coming home from school for the holidays. It was a warm summer day and the station was crowded with people on their way to the seaside. Trains were humming, loudspeakers blaring, porters rushing about shouting at one another, and altogether there was so much noise that Mr Brown, who saw him first, had to tell his wife several times before she understood.



“A *bear*? On Paddington Station?” Mrs Brown looked at her husband in amazement. “Don’t be silly, Henry. There can’t be!”

Mr Brown adjusted his glasses. “But there is,” he insisted. “I distinctly saw it. Over there – near the bicycle rack. It was wearing a funny



kind of hat.”

Without waiting for a reply, he caught hold of his wife’s arm and pushed her through the crowd, round a trolley laden with chocolate and cups of tea, past a bookstall, and through a gap in a pile of suitcases towards the Lost Property Office.

“There you are,” he announced triumphantly, pointing toward a dark corner, “I told you so!”

Mrs Brown followed the direction of his arm and dimly made out a small, furry object in the shadow. It seemed to be sitting on some kind of suitcase and around its neck there was a label with some writing on it. The suitcase was old and battered and, on the side, in large letters, were the words WANTED ON VOYAGE.



Adapted from *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond

**Answer these questions.**

1. Paddington Bear is named after

an airport

a railway station

a bicycle

2. (a) Where are Mr and Mrs Brown in this part of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Why are they there?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you were at the station, what sounds would you hear? Mention three (3).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. "Don't be silly, Henry. There can't be!"

(a) Why does Mrs Brown think that Mr Brown is being silly?

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Explain why she says, "There can't be!".

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a word that shows that Mr Brown is sure that he saw a bear.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. "round a trolley *laden* with chocolate and cups of tea". What does the word

'laden' tell you about the trolley?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Tick all the statements you know are true.

a.	Mr and Mrs Brown were at the airport.	
b.	Judy was returning back home for the summer holidays.	
c.	The train station was very busy and loud.	
d.	Mrs Brown spotted the bear first.	
e.	The bear was standing on a suitcase.	