


# Barbie


Read these questions before you listen to the Marvel Universe podcast. Then, put down your pencil and listen carefully. Afterwards, see how much you can answer!

 Do you think that the Barbie doll was a good invention for the times (1950s)? Explain why or why not.

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 Thinking about the answer to the above question, why do you think Barbie is still around today and is loved by so many people?

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 Barbie has had many different careers, and now, many different looks. Do you think that she is an appropriate role model for young girls? Explain why or why not.

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 The popularity of the Barbie movie shows that Barbie is still relevant in the 2020s. What do you think Mattel will do with Barbie so that she remains relevant for another 50 years?

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### 1959 Barbie

**Number:** Two, one blond and one brunette. The blond was so popular that the brunette was shelved.

**Outfit:** Strapless striped swimsuit, sunglasses, high heels.

**Job:** Modelling

**Cost:** US\$3. A mint condition original Barbie sold recently for US\$27,450.

**Boyfriend:** Ken, released in 1961 (also wearing a swimsuit). White, with brown hair, he met Barbie on the set of a TV shoot.

### Barbie Now and Then



### 2023 Barbies

**Number:** More than 170 different kinds currently available.

**Outfit:** An estimated 1 billion outfits have been created, including a hijab for a Muslim Barbie, an astronaut suit, and a new "Barbie for President" outfit every four years.

**Job:** Barbie has had well over 100 careers since modelling: astronaut; surgeon; Olympic gold medallist; Miss America; aerobics instructor; UNICEF ambassador; baseball player; Instagram influencer; celebrity chef.

**Cost:** US\$22 and up

**Boyfriend:** Ken and Barbie broke up in 2004, but reignited the romance in 2014.

Read the information, then write a paragraph **exploring the similarities and differences** between 1959 Barbie and the Barbie dolls sold today.

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