It is a lot of fun to pretend. It can be fun to pretend to be a pirate. There are many things you can do to be a pirate.
First, you must have a ship. Every pirate has a ship, or at least works on one. Your pirate ship needs to be big in case you have to fight some other ship. If you can get some cannons on your ship, that will be very good, too. That way you can blast other ships when there is a raid. A raid is when other pirates try to take over your ship.

When you get your ship, fly a pirate flag on top of your sails. A pirate flag is black with a skull and crossbones on it. The pirate flag is called a Jolly Roger. When people see the Jolly Roger flying on top of your sails, they will know you are a pirate. They will stay out of your way.
You also need a pirate shirt. A white or black shirt that is puffy is a fine pirate shirt. You can put a big black belt around your waist on top of the shirt to make it even better. If you do not have a belt you can just tie a piece of cloth around your waist.
Next, you need to look like a pirate. To look like a pirate, first you need a pirate hat. Most pirate hats have three points. If you do not have a hat you can just tie a rag around your head. A red or black rag would be good to use.

Next, you need a pair of black pants. Any black pants will be fine.
It can also be fun to have a bird that can talk. A lot of pirates have talking birds. You can get a bird and pretend that he can talk since talking birds are hard to find. Your bird can say “Squawk! Shiver me timbers!”

Last, you need a pair of black or brown boots. The boots will help you walk on the wet ship.
To make you look even more like a pirate, you can put a patch over your eye. You can also put a big ring on one of your hands. If you have a roll of paper that is empty you can use it as a periscope. Pirates use periscopes to look for things that are far away, like other ships or rocks and land.

After you have a ship and look like a pirate, you need to talk like a pirate! You have to learn some new words so you can talk like a pirate. “Shiver me timbers” is kind of like “oh my goodness!” Here are some other words you need to know:

- ahoy – hello
- avast – listen to me
- aye aye (this sounds like “I, I”) – OK
- booty – treasure
- hoist the colors – raise the Jolly Roger (the flag)
- yo ho ho – ha ha ha
Pirates do not say “my,” “am,” or “is.” Pirates say “me” or “be” even when it does not sound right. So when you talk like a pirate, say “that be me pencil” instead of “that is my pencil.” It can be a lot of fun to talk like a pirate. You need to know that pirates use the word “ARR” all of the time. If you say “ARR” you will sound like a pirate.

**New Words**

- pirate
- pirates
- treasure
Now that you can talk like a pirate, you are all set to pretend to be a pirate. You can ride on a pirate ship, look like a pirate, and say some pirate words. People will know you are a pirate when they hear you say, “ARR!”