

UPPER PRIMARY

Beginner English

E-Booklet Part 1





Reading Comprehension Exercise 1

Upper Primary Beginner English

When Alan and Catherine White decided to adopt a dog, they had planned on a small breed. However, they were introduced to dobermanns and fell in love with the 'gentle giant' nature of these big dogs. Their neighbour offered them an adult dobermann named Max. Max was a rescue dog which was removed from his owner who had not treated him well.

Catherine, at first, was worried about introducing a large dog into her family with an active toddler, Billie. However, as Catherine and Alan spoke with their neighbour, Billie ran away from them and headed towards Max. While running, Billie fell over. Max raced over to Billie and gently picked him up. This example of Max's protective nature convinced Alan and Catherine that adopting him was the right thing to do.

On his first day at his new home, Max barely left Billie's side. It seemed that Max had already decided that Billie was his Number One boy. If they were out in the garden and someone walked past them, Max would stand in front of Billie and guard him till the person passed.

One hot Monday, Catherine put Billie and Max in the garden for some fresh air while she cleaned the house and watched them through the window. Max sat next to Billie the entire time. Billie was soon tired of playing in the garden and headed towards the main gate which was locked. He banged the lock on the gate noisily. Catherine thought the noise would startle the dog but Max remained calm.

Suddenly, Max started growling from the depths of his chest. His whole chest puffed up and he lowered his head to the ground, all the while growling deeply. As Catherine watched in fear Max seemed to have grown bigger in size. She saw him trying to push Billie. For a terrifying moment, Catherine was convinced her earlier concerns about adopting Max were about to be proven correct. "Is he going to hurt Billie?"

Catherine wondered with concern.

As Catherine dashed to grab her son, Max saw her approach Billie. He grabbed Billie by the back of his trousers and threw the toddler over his shoulder into a flower bed. Uncertain if Max had meant to attack Billie, Catherine grabbed her son who was sitting unharmed among the flowers and raced into the house. However, the drama was far from over. After Catherine dashed into her house, she looked out of the window. What she saw next stunned her. A big brown snake had come out from the grass near the gate. The snake struck Max right in his chest, causing the poor dog to scream loudly.

In an instant, it all made sense to Catherine. Earlier on, Max had probably sensed the snake near the gate where Billie was playing. His menacing growl had been an attempt to warn the snake off. When that did not work and he saw Catherine approaching, Max knew he had to act to save both Billie and Catherine. He had not been trying to hurt Billie at all.

Recognising the snake to be highly poisonous, Catherine called for help. The veterinarian who arrived rushed Max to his clinic for an injection of antivenom.

It was uncertain for a day or two how long Max would take to recover. Fortunately, Max made a full recovery over the next few days and was fit enough to go home.

Catherine and Alan hugged Max tightly the moment they saw him at the clinic, "Thank you," Catherine whispered in Max's ear. The couple eagerly took Max home where a little boy was waiting for him

Adapted from The Rescuers by Laura Greaves





Reading Comprehension Exercise 1

Upper Primary Beginner English

Questions:

- 1

Based on the first paragraph,what type of dog did Alan and Catherine want to adopt at first?
- 2

Why was Max ‘removed from his previous owner’?
- 3

What was one way Max looked after Billie?
- 4

Billie was not alone in the garden. (True / False)
- 5

When Max started growling at the snake, he appeared to become bigger in size. (True / False)
- 6

When Max saw Catherine approaching Billie, he grabbed Billie and threw him to her. (True / False)
- 7

“Thank you”, Catherine whispered in Max’s ear. How do you think Catherine felt and why did she feel this way?
- 8

Write 1, 2 or 3 in the blanks to indicate the order of events in this story.

Catherine saw a snake come out from the grass near the gate.

Catherine called for help.

Catherine grabbed Billie and ran into the house.



Reading Comprehension Exercise 1 - Solutions

Upper Primary Beginner English

Questions:

1 Based on the first paragraph, what type of dog did Alan and Catherine want to adopt at first?

They had planned to adopt a small breed.

2 Why was Max 'removed from his previous owner'?

The previous owner did not treat Max well.

3 What was one way Max looked after Billie?

If they were out in the garden and someone walked passed them, Max would stand in front of Billie and guard him till the person passed.

4 Billie was not alone in the garden. (True / False)



5 When Max started growling at the snake, he appeared to become bigger in size. (True / False)



6 When Max saw Catherine approaching Billie, he grabbed Billie and threw him to her. (True / False)



7 "Thank you", Catherine whispered in Max's ear. How do you think Catherine felt and why did she feel this way?

I think Catherine felt grateful because Max saved Billie from the snake.

8 Write 1, 2 or 3 in the blanks to indicate the order of events in this story.

2

Catherine saw a snake come out from the grass near the gate.

3

Catherine called for help.

1

Catherine grabbed Billie and ran into the house.



Vocabulary Exercise 1

Upper Primary Beginner English

Choose the correct answer. Put the number in the box.



Susan's ___ is to be a professional singer in the National Singer Company. She has been singing since she was four years old.

- (1) hobby
- (2) ambition
- (3) profession
- (4) occupation

Everyone loves Mrs Smith as she is a ___ person. She likes to joke and make us laugh.

- (1) jovial
- (2) moody
- (3) strange
- (4) contented

The car ___ this morning. We had to take the train to school.

- (1) broke up
- (2) broke off
- (3) broke into
- (4) broke down

The ingredients for the blueberry cake must be measured ___. It will not turn out well if we do not follow the recipe.

- (1) slightly
- (2) mentally
- (3) accurately
- (4) approximately

The policeman quickly ___ to avoid the robber's punches.

- (1) coiled
- (2) dodged
- (3) fidgeted
- (4) swaggered



Vocabulary Exercise 1 - Solutions

Upper Primary Beginner English



Choose the correct answer. Put the number in the box.

Susan's ___ is to be a professional singer in the National Singer Company. She has been singing since she was four years old.

- (1) hobby
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Everyone loves Mrs Smith as she is a ___ person. She likes to joke and make us laugh.

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1

The car ___ this morning. We had to take the train to school.

- (1) broke up
- (2) broke off
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- (4) broke down

4

The ingredients for the blueberry cake must be measured ___. It will not turn out well if we do not follow the recipe.

- (1) slightly
- (2) mentally
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3

The policeman quickly ___ to avoid the robber's punches.

- (1) coiled
- (2) dodged
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- (4) swaggered

2



Grammer Exercise 1

Upper Primary Beginner English

Choose the correct answer. Put the number in the box.



After the children had an exciting first-hand experience playing tennis, they became interested ___ the sports.

- (1) with
- (2) for
- (3) on
- (4) in

___ James's brother scolded him for breaking the vase, he was relieved that he was not injured.

- (1) Despite
- (2) Although
- (3) However
- (4) Because

The players have spent ___ weekends training for their footy match. The coach will finally give them a break next week.

- (1) few
- (2) some
- (3) much
- (4) many

If Grandma walks past the mall, she ___ the bakery to buy pies for us.

- (1) visits
- (2) will visit
- (3) is visiting
- (4) would visit

"Do you see my luggage over there? Please take care of ___ for me," said Sally as she pointed to her bags.

- (1) it
- (2) her
- (3) him
- (4) them



Grammar Exercise 1 - Solutions

Upper Primary Beginner English

Choose the correct answer. Put the number in the box.



After the children had an exciting first-hand experience playing tennis, they became interested ___ the sports.

- (1) with
- (2) for
- (3) on
- (4) in

4

___ James's brother scolded him for breaking the window, he was relieved that he was not injured.

- (1) Despite
- (2) Although
- (3) However
- (4) Because

2

The players have spent ___ weekends training for their footy match. The coach will finally give them a break next week.

- (1) few
- (2) some
- (3) much
- (4) many

4

If Grandma walks past the mall, she ___ the bakery to buy pies for us.

- (1) visits
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2

"Do you see my luggage over there? Please take care of ___ for me," said Sally as she pointed to her bags.

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4



Simile or Metaphor

Upper Primary Beginner English

Simile - A comparison of two things using the words “like” or “as”.

Metaphor - A comparison of two things that does not use the words “like” or “as” and uses the word “is, was, are or were”.

Circle whether each sentence is a simile or a metaphor.

He is as smart as a fox.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The football player is a giant.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

My abs are hard like a rock.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The girl is very bright.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The boy is a volcano ready to explode.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The classroom was a zoo.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

He is quick as a cat.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The boy runs like the wind.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

My teacher told me that ideas are wings.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

His mind is as sharp as a samurai's sword.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The calm lake was a mirror about what was to come.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

Susie is a sleepy bear.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

The snow is a white blanket.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor

He was as sweet as honey to the new student.

☐ Simile ☐ Metaphor



Simile or Metaphor - Solutions

Upper Primary Beginner English

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He is as smart as a fox.

Simile ✓

Metaphor

The football player is a giant.

Simile

Metaphor ✓

My abs are hard like a rock.

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Metaphor

The girl is very bright.

Simile

Metaphor ✓

The boy is a volcano ready to explode.

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Susie is a sleepy bear.

Simile

Metaphor ✓

The snow is a white blanket.

Simile

Metaphor ✓

He was as sweet as honey to the new student.

Simile ✓

Metaphor