



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





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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.