

# Reading Comprehension Task

## The postman's spat with a black and white cat

by Roy Povey

*"Friendly" pet is fiercer than a Rottweiler.*

She looks as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. But Snoopy the cat has developed a taste for blood... human blood.

Every morning she lies in wait for the postman and chases him off the premises as savagely as any guard dog.

Snoopy's owner, Pamela Perham, said: "My daughter-in-law saw him going up the road one day with the cat hanging off his trouser leg. He was absolutely terrified."

Now Royal Mail chiefs have banned deliveries to Snoopy's home in High Wycombe, Bucks, and ordered Mrs Perham to keep her cat under control.

Snoopy's behaviour has puzzled everyone in the quiet street. For 23 hours a day the 14-year-old cat is happy to act her age and doze peacefully by the fire.

But when postman Colin Summerfield begins his round, the friendly bundle of black and white fur is transformed into the feline equivalent of a rampaging Rottweiler.

Mrs Perham, 51, said: "I once saw Snoopy stalk across the lawn and hide behind a fir tree in the front garden as the postman, who is about 5ft 4in, strolled up the drive. Then she pounced on him. I can't understand it. She is just a family pet who has never done anything like this before. Perhaps she doesn't like it because the mail blocks her cat flap.



"I feel really sorry for the postman but I can't keep her in all day and she's not a dog so you can't put her on a lead. Now our letters are being delivered next door and I'm fed up having to go and collect them in the rain or snow."

Her daughter-in-law Liz, 27, said she had witnessed several attacks on the postman. She added: "One day I saw him running across the grass shouting, 'Get off, get off!' He was scared of the cat. I think she really hurt him."


A Royal Mail spokesman said it was the first time he had heard of a cat attacking a postman.

He added: "Our first priority is the safety of our employee. He has been hurt quite badly. A cat can do just as much damage as a dog."

An embarrassed Mr Summerfield declined to discuss the matter yesterday. "I've just got to get on with the job," he said.

*The Express*

The Blue square questions are the easiest ones and the red triangle questions are the most tricky. Choose the section that is right for you, or do all 3 if you're feeling extra hard-working!



### 3 Responding to a newspaper story

Answer questions from the ,  or  section.

- 1 What is unusual about Snoopy?
- 2 Explain how the cat attacks the postman.
- 3 Does the postman still deliver letters to Mrs Perham?

- 1 Why do you think the cat attacks the postman? Do you agree with Mrs Perham's theory?
- 2 What has the Royal Mail done about the problem?
- 3 Does the cat attack anyone else?
  - a) yes
  - b) no
  - c) we can't tell.

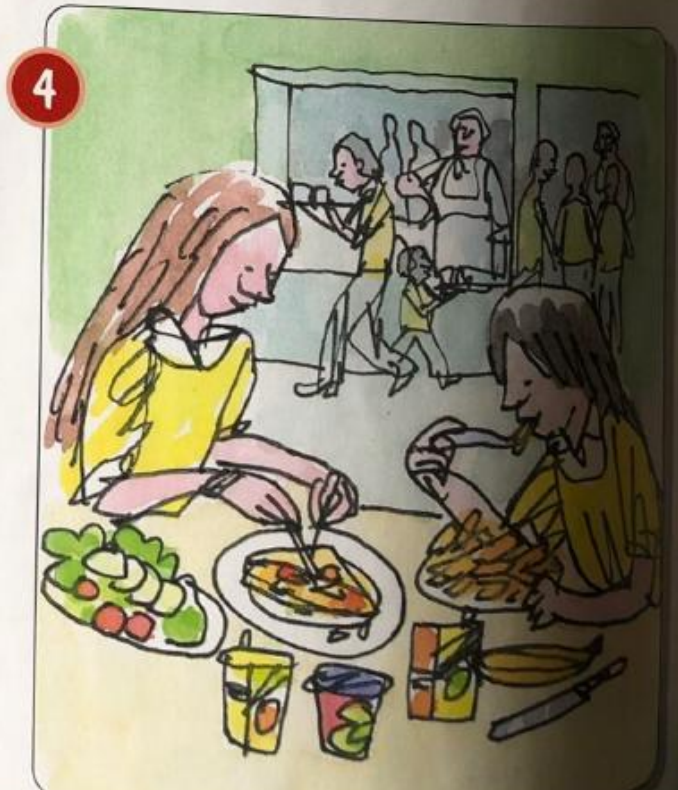
- 1 Why is the word *friendly*, under the reporter's name, in inverted commas?
- 2 What does the phrase *as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth* mean?
- 3 Why do you think Mr Summerfield was embarrassed?



# For All Groups

## 4 Fact and opinion

Write one fact and one opinion to go with each of these pictures.



# For All Groups



## 7 Writing speech

Read these quotations and write sentences with direct quotes.

*I never would have believed it if I hadn't seen the flying saucer with my own eyes!*

*All the children worked incredibly hard.*

*I'm really glad to have Rover back.*

Write down what these people said like in a news story. You can make up their names.

Write some sentences with quotations to go with your group's TV news story.

### Remember!

- Check your punctuation very carefully.