

Introduction to the elite English skills target series

Comprehension is a key skill for students learning English and is always tested in exams from early Primary right through to pre-university public exams. These worksheets give students practice in age-appropriate but challenging comprehension similar to the exercises used in Hong Kong elite school exams.

Passages that relate to children's daily life are interesting and show how English is used in normal life. A handy hints guide is provided.

Completing these exercises on a regular basis will improve:

- ★ Comprehension skills
- ★ Question-type skills (long, short, multiple choice)
- ★ Vocabulary skills
- ★ Grammar skills
- ★ Thinking skills
- ★ Writing skills



Instructions for parents:

1. Explain the question types to your child.
2. Print off the blank exercises and ask your child to attempt them.
3. Check the work against the answers.
4. Give lots of encouragement and praise.
5. Provide guidance. Notice if your child is having repeated problems and practice more in that area (e.g. using the wrong tense in the answers)
6. Reprint the worksheet for another attempt if necessary.

Tips for tackling reading comprehension

1. Read the questions first.
2. Predict the answers (this starts the thinking process).
3. Read the passage and underline any parts that could be answers.
4. Be aware of traps (e.g. where more than one answer is required).
5. Check the tense of the question.
6. Do NOT copy the verbs - they often need to change.
7. Check the grammar of the answer (tense, punctuation, agreement etc.)

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Exercise 1

Read the following conversation and answer the questions.

Interview with Anna

Anna helps old people every week through a school project. She is being interviewed.

- Interviewer: Hello Anna, please tell us who you help.
Anna: I help an elderly man and his wife who live in my block of flats but not on my floor. I live on the 2nd floor but they live three floors above.
- Interviewer: When do you help them?
Anna: I help them every weekend. Sometimes, I help them on weekdays too.
- Interviewer: How do you help them?
Anna: At the weekend, I sweep the living room floor and I clean their bathroom. Sometimes, I peel vegetables for dinner. I wash the dishes.
- Interviewer: What do you do on weekdays?
Anna: I may post a letter or put out the rubbish, or some other little things.
- Interviewer: Why do you help these people, Anna?
Anna: I am young and strong and they are weak and can't manage to work by themselves. I like to make people's lives better.



Exercise 1 - questions

Decide if the following sentences are true or false:

Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false.

- 1. Anna and the elderly couple live in the same building. _____
- 2. Anna is too busy at school to help them on weekdays. _____
- 3. Anna sometimes helps with meal preparation. _____

Who does Anna help? Underline the correct answer.

- (A) Her neighbours.
- (B) Some old people who live in a home for old people.
- (C) Some old people who live in her building.
- (D) Her school.

Give short answers:

When does Anna help them? _____

Which floor do the elderly people live on? _____

Which word means 'to take the skin off'? _____

Answer in complete sentences:

What does Anna do to help in the kitchen?

Why do the elderly people need help?

Who would you like to help if you could help someone? Why?

Exercise 5

Read the notice from the newspaper and answer the questions in complete sentences.

Hong Kong Post 29th March

FOUND**Is this your cat?****Can you help us return this cat to its home?**

It is black and white with big green eyes. It is very friendly and loving so we think it must be someone's pet. It is male

and loves to eat tuna fish!

We found the cat under the swings two days ago. If you know whose cat this is, please call Paul on

2778 2778

Exercise 5 - questions

Whose house is the cat living in now?

Why does the writer think the cat is someone's pet?

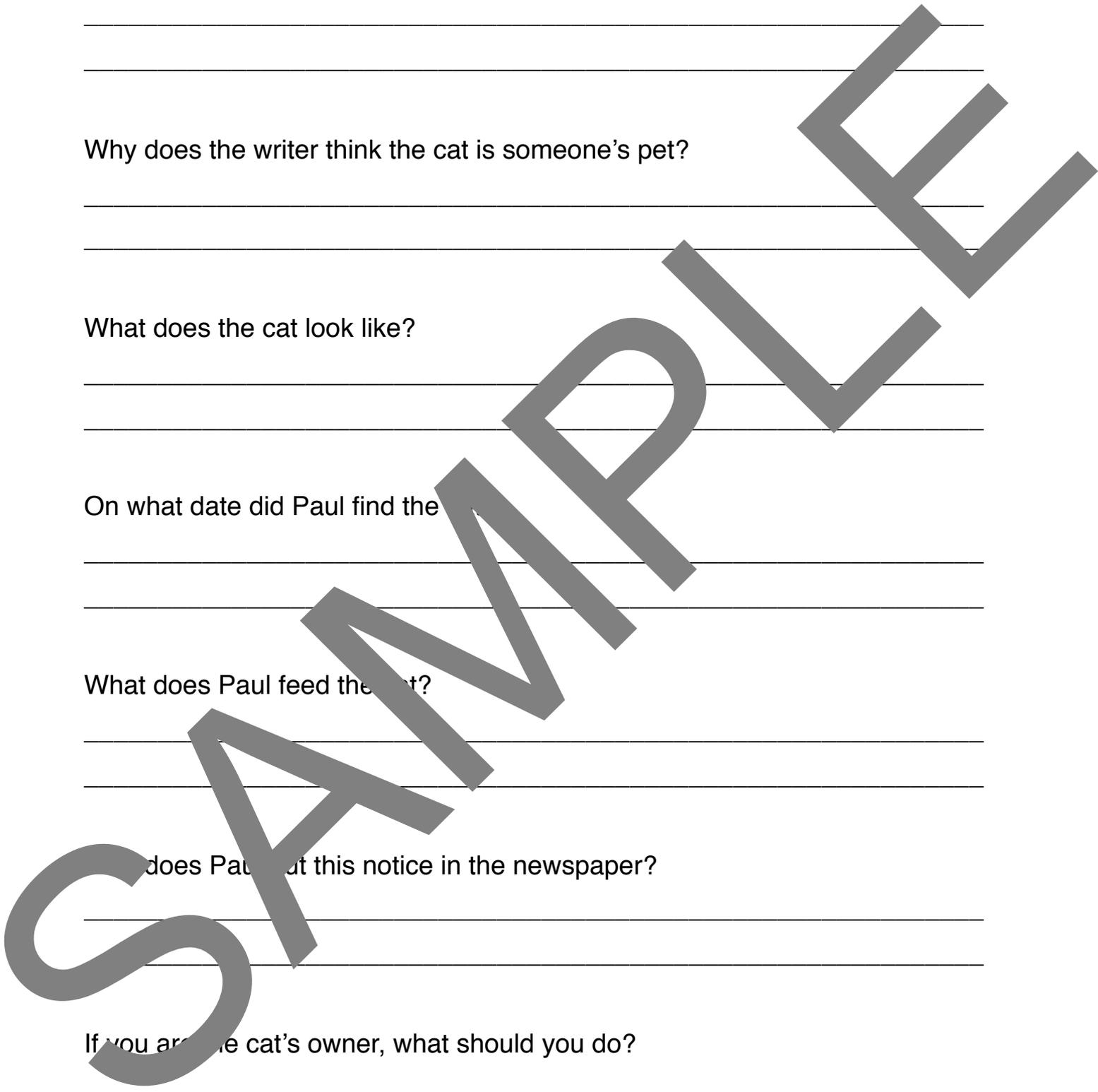
What does the cat look like?

On what date did Paul find the cat?

What does Paul feed the cat?

Why does Paul put this notice in the newspaper?

If you are the cat's owner, what should you do?



Exercise 1 - answers

Decide if the following sentences are true or false:

Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false.

1. Anna and the elderly couple live in the same building. T
2. Anna is too busy at school to help them on weekdays. F
3. Anna sometimes helps with meal preparation. T

Who does Anna help? Underline the correct answer.

- (A) Her neighbours.
(B) Some old people who live in a home for old people.
(C) Some old people who live in her building.
(D) Her school.

Give short answers:

When does Anna help them? Every weekend and sometimes on weekdays

Which floor do the elderly people live on? (on the) 2nd floor

Which word means 'to peel the skin off'? 'peel'

Answer in complete sentences:

What does Anna do to help in the kitchen?

Anna/She peels vegetables for dinner and washes the dishes.

Why do the elderly people need help?

The elderly people/They need help because they are weak (and/or)/ can't manage the work by themselves.

Who would you like to help if you could help someone? Why?

I would like to help... (accept any logical answer)

Exercise 5 - answers

Whose house is the cat living in now?

The cat is living in Paul's house now.

Why does the writer think the cat is someone's pet?

The writer/He thinks the cat is someone's pet because it/he is very friendly and loving.

What does the cat look like?

The cat is black and white with big green eyes.

On what date did Paul find the cat?

Paul found the cat on the 27th March, 2013.

What does Paul feed the cat?

Paul feeds the cat tuna fish.

Why does Paul put this notice in the newspaper?

Paul/He put this notice in the newspaper to find the owner of the cat.
(accept any logical answer)

If you are the cat's owner, what should you do?

You should call Paul on) 2778 2778.