

True or False Statements

A cold, icy wind chilled her to the bone. She hugged her coat closer to her, in a feeble attempt to feel warmer. Her feet crunched wearily along the treacherously icy path as the anger, once again, surged up within her. She had told him to leave the gate shut. She had reminded him time and time again. Brothers can be so annoying! Her anger quickly turned to panic again at the thought of her poor, defenceless boy, out here in the bitterly cold weather. He was only 4 months old, for goodness sake! She just had to find him soon; she dared not think about what would happen if she didn't.

The weak sun was already beginning to sink below the horizon and the temperature was plummeting further. They had forecast snow tonight. She stopped for a moment and listened. She scanned the eerily quiet and frozen landscape, looking for any hint of black or white. The fading light was hindering her. Perhaps his red collar might show up better? She shouted his name for the hundredth time that day, "Charlie. Come here boy. Charlie...come on!" She listened carefully. Nothing. No bark or whimper could be heard. The birds were strangely silent too; perhaps there wasn't enough light or warmth to encourage their sweet, joyful songs. She sighed deeply and continued with her seemingly hopeless search whilst disregarding the pain in her own tired, frozen feet.

It was getting dark now. She hated the thought of giving up but she knew her mum would be furious if she stayed out any longer. All was not without hope though. Charlie had been microchipped and he wore his name tag proudly on his collar. Tasha's contact details were on it and she had been clutching her mobile phone tightly all day in a hope that someone might have found him. Unfortunately, her phone had not yet rung.

Tears fell shamelessly down her cold, numb cheeks, as she headed reluctantly towards home. Snow flakes began to float gently from the sky, covering the fields in a light dusting of white. She would normally have been excited by the arrival of snow but not today. Today, the snow signalled a loss of hope. Charlie could never survive a night outside in this weather – not at his age. Suddenly, in front of her, a pheasant crashed nosily through the hedge. It was quickly followed by a bouncing, barking ball of black and white fluff. The ball of fluff seemed quite excited about this game, unlike the pheasant who took to the skies indignantly in a bid to escape the annoying creature. Tasha couldn't believe her eyes. Charlie seemed rather pleased by the arrival of his favourite playmate, as he was getting rather tired and hungry. Tasha scooped the excited puppy into her arms and vowed never to let him out of her sight again.

- Using information from the text, put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Walking on the icy path was dangerous.		
Charlie had escaped home through a hole in the hedge.		
He was 4 years old.		
Tasha was feeling angry at Charlie.		
Everywhere was quiet and frozen.		
The birdsong filled her with joy.		
Anyone who found Charlie would be able to contact Tasha.		
The snow arrived as forecast.		
Charlie was happy to go home.		

True or False Statements

Pheasants are one of the UK's most colourful birds and have been a common sight in our countryside – except for the far north and west of Scotland – since they were introduced here by the Romans over 2000 years ago. Pheasants are widely distributed across Western Europe, China and central Asia, where they are thought to have originated from. Pheasants are closely related to wild chickens, quails and partridges.

Habits and Habitats

Pheasants eat a diet of seeds, berries and insects. Their preferred habitat is agricultural land, near woodland edges, copses and hedgerows. In areas where woodlands are not common, marshy grassland and shrubby wetlands also provide a suitable home. Pheasants usually build their nest on the ground and prefer to spend their time hiding in the long grass. Their main predator is the fox, however, the pheasant has excellent eye-sight and hearing which they use to help them sense any approaching danger.

Flight

Pheasants tend only to fly for short distances but they are capable of reaching speeds of up to 48mph. Pheasants do not migrate like many other birds so they are a common sight throughout the winter. When searching for food, they are able to dig through the snow with their long legs and sharp claws.

Rooster and Hens

Male pheasants are called 'roosters' and they are vibrantly coloured with blue-green heads, red eye-patches and bold white neck rings; they have rich golden-brown and black markings on their body. Whereas the females (called 'hens') have a rather plain brown plumage and are much smaller than the male. Both males and females have long, pointed tails. Females can lay up to 12 eggs and it is they who incubate the eggs and rear the chicks alone.

Gamebird

The pheasant is a gamebird; this means that it's hunted in the wild for sport or food. It is estimated that some 35 million pheasants are reared each year and released into the wild for this purpose alone. Some people consider pheasant to be a tasty dish and almost any chicken recipe can be adapted to suit. Pheasants are also a prey species that doesn't migrate in the winter, meaning that pheasants rarely reach the age of two.

- Using information from the text, put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Pheasants originated from Asia.		
Pheasants are a common sight in the countryside.		
Pheasants prefer to fly and roost in trees		
Pheasants use their sharp claws to attack foxes.		
Pheasants are an uncommon sight during the winter.		
The hens are vibrantly coloured.		
Pheasants are often shot for sport.		
Many pheasants are reared and then released into the wild.		
Pheasants have a relatively short life span.		

True or False Statements

How to Look after a Puppy

A puppy can be a truly delightful addition to the family but they can also be exceptionally hard work. Puppies will need be toilet trained, taught basic commands, exercised, fed a healthy balanced diet and given plenty of affection. Patience will be a virtue, as puppies are known to chew favourite shoes, toys and items of furniture.

What you need:

- Collar and lead
- Water and food bowl
- Warm, comfy bed
- Brush
- Safe chew toys
- Patience!

What you need to do:

1. Choose the most appropriate breed of dog to suit your family requirements. How large will the adult dog be? How much exercise will it need? Will you have time to walk the dog everyday?
2. Dogs are not cheap to buy or to look after. They require specific equipment, food and regular visits to the vets – ensure you have available funds to sustain this.
3. Make sure your home is a safe environment for a puppy. Keep electrical cables out of reach. Lock away cleaning/chemical products. Ensure low-level windows are locked.
4. Invest in a child gate to secure your puppy in a safe place whilst it is unsupervised.
5. As soon as possible, take your puppy to the vets for a health check and the necessary vaccinations.
6. Once vaccinated, give your puppy lots of opportunities to visit different places and to socialise with other dogs.
7. It's worth taking your puppy to dog training classes; here you will both receive plenty of help and support.
8. Take your puppy out into the garden routinely to encourage it to eliminate waste outside. It can take as long as 4 to 6 months before a puppy is fully house trained. There will be many catastrophes along the way – be prepared!
9. Don't forget to play with your puppy as it helps establish a bond between the two of you. Puppies also require unlimited amounts of love and attention.

Top tip:

If handled correctly, the rewards can be great as puppies soon grow into loving, loyal, obedient and lifelong companions.

- Using information from the text, put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
It is important to have patience when looking after a puppy.		
Dogs require specific equipment.		
Puppies will know how to behave in your home.		
Dogs are inexpensive pets.		
Dog training classes will teach you as well as your dog.		
It takes time to house train a puppy.		
A bond will automatically form between you and your dog.		
Dogs need to be handled correctly.		
A dog is a lifelong pet.		

True or False Statements

Dear Diary (Saturday 12th January)

I'm beyond excited!!!! Charlie has finally arrived and he's more adorable than when I first met him several weeks ago – how is that even possible? Mum took me out yesterday to buy everything he'd need. I've been saving my pocket for weeks now and it's been completely worth it. I got him the most amazing diamond studded collar and the fluffiest bed you can imagine – it's heavenly!

I think he remembered me when we collected him from the farm. It was so sad when we took him away from his mother but I know he'll be spoilt rotten here. His mum looked like she was ready for a bit of peace and quiet though anyway if you ask me. Mum says that he's going to be hard work but I can't imagine ever getting cross or impatient with anything that cute and fluffy. I love him so much!

Dear Diary (Sunday 13th January)

Wow! What a night that was! Mum says that Charlie is to sleep in the kitchen, so I put him to bed last night and put newspaper on the floor in case he had any accidents. None of us got any sleep. He whined and whimpered all night. I really wanted to let him sleep on my bed but mum said no! She promised that he would soon get the hang of it and that we must not give in to him. I need to harden my resolve and not give in to those pleading and piteous brown eyes. When I came downstairs this morning, the kitchen was a scene of complete and utter devastation! Charlie had chewed up all of the newspaper and then urinated all over the floor! Yuk!

Dear Diary (Monday 14th January)

Aaargh! Charlie has chewed up my favourite pair of shoes but on the bright side, he also urinated in my brother's trainer, so I've forgiven him. Apart from that little mishap, he went to the toilet successfully in the garden today – he's such a clever boy.

The vet was super pleased with him today too. He only whimpered a little bit when he had his vaccinations and she said that he was a strong and healthy little puppy. She also recommended that I join a puppy training class as he escaped whilst we were there and chased a cat around the waiting room. It was carnage! Mum apologised profusely to the cat's owner but she continued to glower at us the whole time we were there. Oh well, things can only get easier – surely?

- Using information from the text, put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Charlie has only just left his mother.		
He was born on a farm.		
Tasha finds it easy to be firm with Charlie.		
Charlie must sleep downstairs.		
Charlie settled quickly into his new routine.		
Tasha didn't mind Charlie ruining her brother's belongings.		
Charlie is a healthy young puppy.		
Tasha said sorry to the owner of the cat.		
The cat's owner was not happy about what happened.		