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Homesick Buggy the Beagle Takes the Bus

Owners Jack and Carol Jones were worried when their family pet, Buggy the beagle, disappeared from their home every day at the same time and then returned, at the same time every day.

‘It’s as if he was going out to work!’ said Mrs Jones, 42. ‘He jumped over the garden wall and vanished every morning at 8.30 but he always came back at 6 p.m.’

Mr and Mrs Jones, with Buggy, had moved from Sheffield to Doncaster last month. Mrs Jones explained that it was clear that Buggy missed his old home.

‘For a couple of days he just moped about and was off his food,’ said Mrs Jones. ‘Then he started his disappearing act.’

Joining the commute

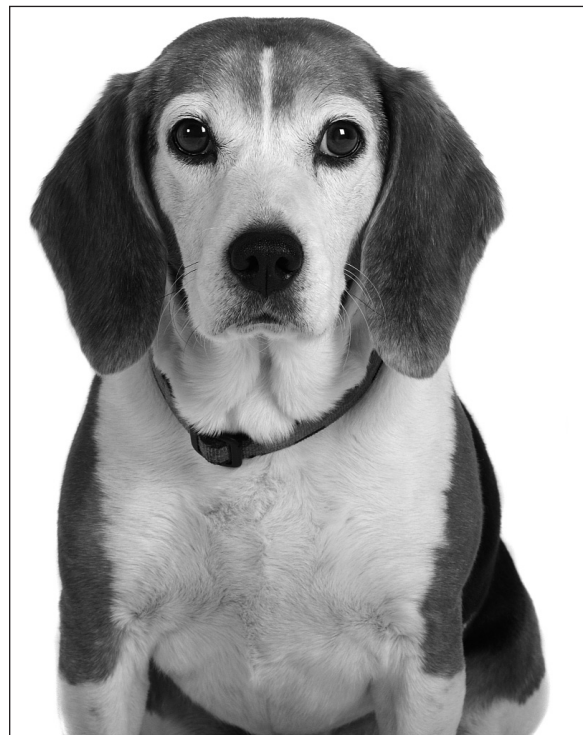
The mystery was solved when Mrs Jones decided to follow Buggy last week. She was amazed to see him joining a queue at a nearby bus stop. People at the stop appeared to be talking to him and patting him. When the bus arrived, Buggy hopped on with the other passengers. That evening, Mrs Jones watched again as the evening bus pulled up, the doors opened and off jumped Buggy.

Mrs Jones discovered that the enterprising animal caught the bus to his old home in Sheffield, spent the day in

the area where he used to live and then came home again later. Regular commuters on the bus route became used to seeing the solo beagle and enjoyed his company.

A spokesman from Yorks Buses told us that, although this was an irregularity, there was nothing in their rule book to state that unaccompanied beagles cannot travel. However, travelling without paying a fare is against the rules. On a more serious note, they also stated that a loose dog alone on a bus might pose a danger to other travellers and the driver.

Mr and Mrs Jones apologised to the bus company and promised that Buggy’s travelling days are over.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read the text, then answer the questions.

- 1.** In what tense is this passage mostly written? Underline some examples of verbs in this tense in blue.

- 2.** Why does the article use this tense?

- 3.** Underline the present tense verbs in green. Why does the writer use them?

- 4.** How does the bus company react to Bussy catching buses?

- 5.** Highlight the direct speech (quotations) in one colour and the indirect speech in another colour. Why does the author quote what people say in the passage?

- 6.** Write one or two sentences to summarise this story.

- 7.** Why might Mrs Jones have followed Bussy?

- 8.** Draw a rectangle around any examples of opinion you can find.