

Before the Discussion

Do you know the following words and phrases?

cuddle	wag
scratch	leap
loyal	fluffy
obedient	hop
bark	exotic pet



Getting Ideas

We asked three students from around the world to talk about their pets. Here are their replies.



Atsushi

"In my country, a lot of people like cats. I had a pet cat when I was growing up. Its name was Snowflake. It was a very naughty cat! It wouldn't come when I called it. It didn't like to be cuddled and it scratched me so many times!"



Jacob

"I got a puppy for my tenth birthday. It was a Dalmatian and I named him Spots. I like dogs because they are loyal and obedient. I remember when I used to come home from school and Spots would get very excited! He would bark and wag his tail and leap on me!"

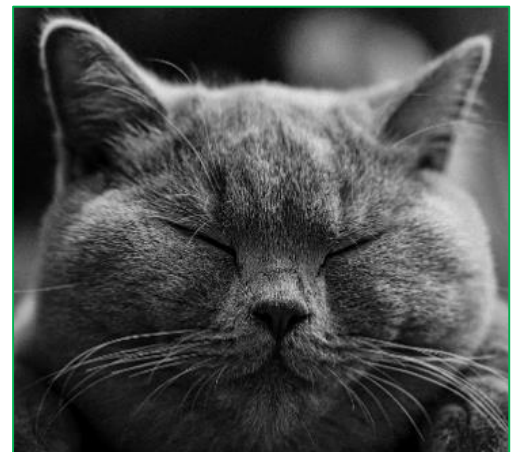


Marcela

"When I was small, I wasn't allowed to have a pet inside the house, but I was allowed to keep a rabbit in the garden. I named my rabbit Cappuccino because of her color. She was such a cuddly and fluffy pet! She would hop all around the garden and make me laugh."

Discussion

- 1 Do you have any pets? Describe them.
- 2 What animals make the best pets?
- 3 Do you prefer cats or dogs?
- 4 Would you keep an exotic pet such as a snake or a spider?
- 5 Which pets are very expensive to keep and why?
- 6 What kinds of pets can be dangerous?
- 7 What kinds of pets can do tricks?
- 8 Which pets are best for small children? For the elderly?
- 9 What are the benefits of having a pet?
- 10 What are the challenges of keeping a pet?



Teacher's Notes

Word Reference

Here is a list of pets that you could use with this activity:

dogs	ponies	tarantulas
cats	hamsters	turtles
fish	guinea pigs	lizards
birds	rabbits	iguanas
parrots	snakes	
horses	spiders	

Language Point

Each of the three student sample answers talked about things that happened regularly in the past. They each used **WOULD** to describe this:

It was a very naughty cat! It **wouldn't** come when I called it.

I remember when I used to come home from school and Spots **would** get very excited! He **would** bark and wag his tail and leap on me!

She **would** hop all around the garden and make me laugh.

Online Resources

There is an HTML version of this worksheet here:

www.roadtogrammar.com/convos/pets

You could use the HTML version, for example, in class with a smartboard.

You could follow up this activity with a vocabulary quiz on animals:

www.roadtogrammar.com/animals/