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Before Reading



- 1 Look at the people below. Listen to the people speaking and then write the correct name under each picture.

Mrs Stewart Dan Lord Dunagoil Sue Dr Stewart

a

b

c

d

e

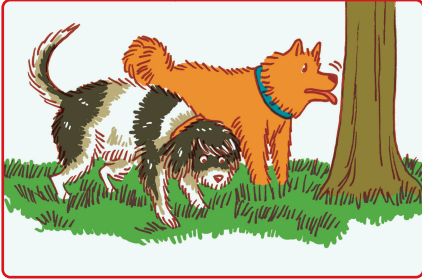
2



- Work in pairs. Who do you like the best? Why?
Do you think you can tell what a person is like by looking at them?

- 3** What are these dogs (Charlie and Dylan) doing? Use the verbs in the box and complete the sentence under each picture with the correct tense.

growl sniff lie run wag bark



a They the grass and the trees.



b They down.



c They



d They after birds.



e They



f They their tails.

- 4** Do you know what dog trainers do? Make a list of things dog trainers can teach dogs to do.



1 What is happening on the beach?



‘What’s happening down there?’ asked Dan Parks. He was lying on his front on the grass and looking down at Stravannan Bay.

‘Where?’ asked Sue Barrington. She was lying next to him, but on her back. She turned over to see what was so interesting.

Teenagers Dan Parks and Sue Barrington were on holiday on the island of Bute, off the west coast of Scotland. They were staying at Kilchattan Bay, on the east of the island, and in the evening, they took their two dogs and walked across the island to Stravannan Bay. It wasn’t far — about five kilometres there and back.

‘Down there,’ said Dan. He was looking down towards the bay.

Sue looked. A boat was coming towards the beach, and a white van was driving down onto the beach to meet the boat. Sue and Dan watched. The man in the boat got out and pulled the boat up the beach. The van turned round near the boat. The driver got out and opened the back doors. The two men started taking boxes out of the van and putting them in the boat.

‘Dylan, come!’ Dan called his dog, Dylan. Dylan ran to Dan.

‘Down,’ said Dan, and Dylan lay down.

‘Stay,’ said Dan. ‘We don’t want those men to see us.’

He didn’t know why. But it seemed like a good idea.

Sue’s dog, Charlie, was lying on the grass next to her. She put her hand on him and said, ‘Stay!’ Charlie put his head on the ground between his paws and looked up at her.

GLOSSARY

- **bay:** area of sea with coast on three sides of it
- **boxes:**



- **off:** (here) a short distance from
- **paws:** animals’ feet
- **there and back:** (here) to Stravannan Bay and back again
- **van:** small lorry or truck

On the beach, the men continued moving the boxes. Dan and Sue couldn't see them clearly, but it seemed that one of the two men had a beard.

'What are they doing?' asked Dan.

'Putting the boxes in the boat, stupid,' replied Sue.

'I can see that,' he laughed. 'But why? What's in the boxes? Why are they putting them in the boat? And where's the boat going?'

Sue turned over on to her back again and looked up at the sky.



GLOSSARY

- **beard:** hair on a man's chin

‘I know you think you’re a detective, Dan,’ she said. ‘And you did once find my dog for me. But do you have to ask so many questions? We’re on holiday.’

Dan was still watching the men on the beach.

‘The thing is,’ he said, ‘it’s strange.’

‘Seriously,’ she said, ‘why is it strange?’

‘Well, people don’t usually do that, do they?’ he explained.

‘Most people use the postman or a parcel service to send boxes.’

‘But we’re in the Scottish islands,’ said Sue. ‘People use boats a lot.’

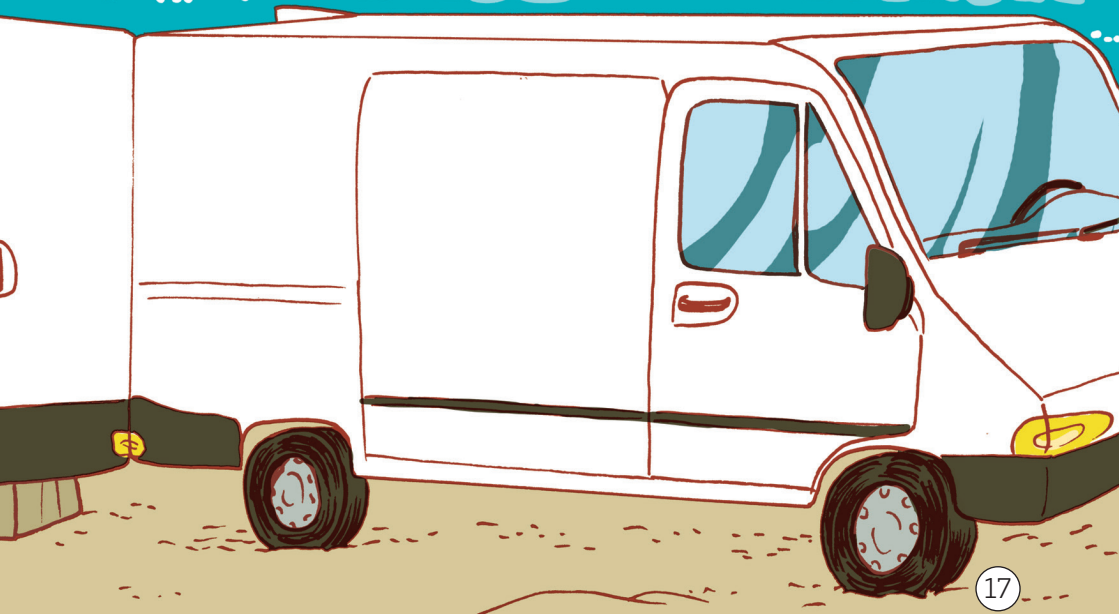
Dan

What does Dan think is strange? Tick (✓).

- ☐ seeing a van on the beach
- ☐ sending boxes by boat
- ☐ sending boxes by courier



What do you think? Tell a partner.



‘True,’ said Dan. ‘But where are they going? The nearest place is Arran — the island over there to the west. It’s about fifteen to twenty kilometres away. And that’s quite a small boat. I don’t think they’re using the boat because it’s easier than using the post or a parcel service.’

‘Maybe they’re smugglers•,’ laughed Sue.

Dan didn’t laugh.

‘Maybe they are,’ he said. ‘Then they’re smuggling• something out of the country, not into the country. I think people usually smuggle things into Britain, but people probably smuggle things out as well.’

The men finished putting the boxes in the boat. The man with the beard got into the boat. The boat started out to sea, then turned south. The van driver got back in the van. The van drove off the beach and away, along a small road. Then it turned into some buildings, near the main island road.

‘Where’s that?’ asked Dan.

‘You mean those buildings?’ asked Sue.

‘Yes,’ replied Dan.

Sue pulled a map out of her pocket and opened it. She found Stravannan Bay and then followed the road away from the bay.

‘It’s Stravannan Hall Farm,’ she said.

Dan thought for a minute or two.

‘I know you think this is all nothing,’ he said to Sue. ‘But I think it’s strange. I want to find out more.’ Sue smiled at him.

Good old Dan — always the detective, she thought.

Dan looked at his watch.

‘Come on,’ he said. ‘It’s eight o’clock. We need to get back.’

GLOSSARY

- **smugglers:** people who take things illegally from one country to another
- **smuggling:** taking things illegally from one country to another



I THINK
IT'S STRANGE.

RUMPY
CAT

After Reading

Language

1 Use the words from the story to complete the sentences.

weak pets smuggle drug electric pile machine

- a The door's Just push the 'o' to open it.
- b His heart is very But scientists have made a new to help him.
- c It's against the law, but people still try to things into the country.
- d If you want some paper, take it from the on my desk.
- e It's a lovely hotel. The problem is they don't let stay there.
- f That over there is amazing. It can tell you how long you slept last night.

2 Complete these sentences with a preposition from the box.

through under towards round for between

- a A boat was coming the beach.
- b Charlie put his head on the ground his paws.
- c Lord Dunagoil came to the island a month every summer.
- d Dan and Sue had a look the old castle.
- e Dan and Sue looked the hole to see what was happening.
- f 'Why are the boxes of the drug an old church?' asked Sue.