

Working with texts: Marmalade comes home

Monica Peters only had a few snapshots to remember her kitten Marmalade by. On November 1st, exactly ten years ago, Marmalade, Monica's one-year-old ginger cat, disappeared from her home in Bournemouth. She thought she would never see her pet again. But exactly ten years later, Mrs Peters has been reunited with her dear moggy.

Ten years on, Marmalade appeared to recognise her owner instantly. "Or maybe she just greeted me affectionately because she was hungry," suggested Mrs Peters.

Earlier this week a stray was found in Braintree, Essex and handed in to the Blue Cross centre in Cambridge. A scan showed that the 11-year-old tabby had a microchip embedded in its skin. The centre tracked down her owner at an address in Bournemouth, 260km from where she was found. Mrs Peters said that when the animal sanctuary called her she thought they had made a terrible mistake. "I couldn't believe it," she said. "After ten years, I had given up hope of ever seeing her again, and then she turned up on my doorstep exactly ten years after she went missing. If only she could talk, she'd have a few stories to tell. It's her eleventh birthday on November 18th so we're looking forward to having a lovely birthday party."

► Activity 1

- a What kind of photograph is a *snapshot*?
- b What does the adjective *dear* mean in the text?
- c Underline five nouns in the text which refer to the cat.

Write each noun next to a description below:

- 1 _____ an animal that you keep in your home and look after
- 2 _____ an informal word for a cat
- 3 _____ a young cat
- 4 _____ a striped cat
- 5 _____ an animal which is lost or has left its home

- d Which two words (one noun and one adjective) tell us that the main colour of the cat is orange?
- e At which headwords do you find these words in the dictionary?

headword

- 1 instantly _____
- 2 greeted _____
- 3 affectionately _____
- 4 hungry _____
- 5 embedded _____
- f Name an example of a *scan* that people often have.
- g What does an *animal sanctuary* do?
- h Mrs Peters thought the animal centre had *made a terrible mistake*. Find five other adjectives that collocate with *mistake*.
 - 1 _____
 - 2 _____
 - 3 _____
 - 4 _____
 - 5 _____

► Activity 2

- i Find a synonym for the phrasal verb *give up* in the phrase *give up hope*.
- j Find the phrasal verbs *track down* and *turn up* in your dictionary. Write the meaning for each as used in the story:
 - track down: _____
 - turn up: _____
- k In the sense they are used, one of these phrasal verbs is transitive and one is intransitive. Which is which?
 - 1 *transitive* _____
 - 2 *intransitive* _____

► Activity 3

Here are some colloquial phrases using animals.
Complete them with the words in the box. Check your answers in the dictionary.

lion bear cat wolf dog sheep

- a** 'Why aren't you saying anything? Has the _____ got your tongue?'
- b** He was in a terrible mood this morning. He was like a _____ with a sore head.
- c** The largest part – the _____'s share – of the money went to his grandchildren.
- d** 'My wife wasn't very happy about my behaviour at last night's party, so I'm in the _____ house now.'
- e** 'Don't trust him! He may seem very nice but he's really a _____ in _____'s clothing.'