

Snakes alive!



When fourteen-year-old Kate first saw the boa constrictor in a pet shop it was just a few centimetres long. 'She was very small and I could hold her in my hand,' said Kate. 'I always wanted an exotic pet and I had just enough money to buy her. My parents weren't very happy but I persuaded them. I called my snake Sofia.'

Sofia lived in a tank in the sitting-room but Kate took her out every day for some exercise. Sofia enjoyed exploring all the corners of the room. As the weeks passed, Sofia grew bigger and bigger. One Friday when Kate checked Sofia's tank, she saw that the snake wasn't there. 'I looked everywhere,' said Kate, 'under the bed, in the cupboard, behind the bookcase and under the TV. Then I noticed that one of the windows was open.'

Kate looked for Sofia for a long time but with no luck. 'I can't find her,' she thought desperately. 'She could be somewhere outside.'

The next evening, Kate's best friend, Lizzie, was staying the night in the spare bed in Kate's room. Lizzie was getting into bed when she suddenly screamed. 'There's something cold and alive in my bed!' she said. Kate pulled the duvet back. There, curled up happily, was Sofia. 'Well, you can understand her,' said Kate. 'It was the warmest place in the house!'

After Sofia's adventure, Kate and her parents decided that Sofia was now too big to keep as a pet and they gave her to the local zoo. Kate visits her every Sunday and says that Sofia is very happy in her new home.

Before you read

Why do you think people keep exotic animals as pets?

14 Read

a) Read the text and guess the meaning of these words and phrases. Check your answers with your teacher or a dictionary.

- boa constrictor • exotic
- tank • to explore • alive
- duvet • curled up

b) Answer the questions

- 1 How big was Sofia when Kate first saw her?
- 2 Where did Sofia live at Kate's house?
- 3 What exercise did she get?
- 4 Where did Kate search when she saw Sofia was missing?
- 5 When and where did she find her?
- 6 Why was Sofia happy under the duvet?
- 7 What did Kate and her parents finally do with Sofia?

15 Write

Use your imagination or write a story which was in the news recently about an incident involving an animal. Use these questions to help you.

- What kind of animal was it?
- Where did the story take place?
- Who were the people and what were they doing?
- What did the animal do?
- What happened in the end?

Progress check Units 8 and 9

Grammar

1 Complete the sentences with *did*, *was* or *were*.

The sun was shining.

- 1 When ... they arrive?
- 2 She ... having a good time when I saw her.
- 3 They ... n t at school today.
- 4 I ... n t like her at first.
- 5 ... they visiting the USA for the first time?
- 6 ... Gary watching TV when you phoned?

2 Complete the text with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

Last weekend my mother (take) ¹ took me and my brother on a trip to Blackpool. My father (work) ² ... so he (not/come) ³ ... with us. We (get up) ⁴ ... at 5 a.m. on Saturday morning. It (rain) ⁵ ... when we (leave) ⁶ ... and my mother (not/feel) ⁷ ... in a very good mood. After an hour my brother (begin) ⁸ ... to feel sick so we (stop) ⁹ ... at a motorway café. Then we (turn off) ¹⁰ ... the motorway and (take) ¹¹ ... a small country road. Anyway, we (drive) ¹² ... along when suddenly we (see) ¹³ ... about twenty sheep in the middle of the road. They (just/stand) ¹⁴ ... there. We nearly (hit) ¹⁵ ... one of them. They (not/move) ¹⁶ ... for an hour so we just (sit) ¹⁷ ... there! In the end, we (not/get to) ¹⁸ ... Blackpool until after lunch.

3 Join the parts of the sentences with *when* or *while* and the correct form of the past tense.

I/have breakfast ... // the parcel/arrive. (when)
I was having breakfast when the parcel arrived.
... I/wash my hair // someone/knock at the door. (while)
While I was washing my hair, someone knocked at the door.

- 1 We/just go out ... // it/begin to snow. (when)
- 2 ... she/swim in the sea // she/lose one of her beach shoes. (while)
- 3 I/do my homework ... // all the lights/go out. (when)
- 4 ... they/have dinner // the cat/eat the goldfish. (while)
- 5 My brother/cycle quite fast ... // he/got a puncture. (when)
- 6 ... I/change some money // a robber/run into the bank. (while)

Vocabulary

4 Choose the correct ending to complete the animal words.

- se • ep • oceros • aroo • ar • fish • rot • en
- affe • ant

1 elephant

- 1 eleph 2 be 3 kang 4 gir 5 chick
6 she 7 gold 8 rhin 9 hor 10 par

Communication

5 Use the map to complete the conversation.

- A: Excuse me. Is there a post office ' ... here?
B: Yes, ' ... is. It's ' ... East Street.
A: How do I get to it ' ... here?
B: Walk ' ... this street – King Street – and ' ... at the traffic lights.
A: Those traffic lights over there?
B: That's right. Then take ' ... right into ' ... Street.
A: First turning, OK.
B: The post office is about 50 metres down the street on your ' It's ' ... the police station.



6 Work in pairs. Student A: Ask Student B

- where he/she first went to school.
- what he/she was doing last night at 9 o'clock.
- how much a litre of milk costs.
- how to get to the nearest football ground from school.

Now Student B: Ask Student A

- two things he/she did at the weekend.
- what he/she was doing at 7 o'clock this morning.
- how much a cup of coffee costs.
- how to get to his/her home from school.

Self-evaluation Units 8 and 9

How do you rate your progress? Tick the chart.

- ✓✓✓ Excellent
- ✓✓ Good
- ✓ OK but can do better

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Communication	