

Exam-style task

Hints and tips for Reading Part 4

What you have to do

- Read a longer text and answer five multiple-choice questions.
- In each question you have to choose from four options.
- The first question is usually about the writer's purpose in writing the text, and the last question is about the general meaning of the text.
- The other three questions follow the order of information in the text and at least one will be about attitudes or opinions expressed in the text.

How to approach it

- Read the text fairly quickly, and think about the writer's purpose and the general meaning of the text.
- Read the text again, this time very carefully.
- Answer the questions, each time checking your answer by looking back at the text.

- It can be a good idea to answer the first question (writer's purpose) and the last question (general meaning) together.
- If you are not sure of the correct answer, cross out the answers that you know are wrong.

How to prepare yourself

- The texts in Part 4 are more than simply information about a topic: they will often express the attitudes, feelings and opinions of the writer or of other people mentioned in the text.
- These words are sometimes used to indicate the writer's purpose: *recommend, describe, explain, report, warn, advise, give an opinion.*
- Try to read a variety of texts that express opinions, attitudes, etc. Reading stories will help you: there are lots of excellent abridged and simplified readers in English, for learners at all levels. See www.cambridge.org/elt.

Who let the dogs out?

I've always known that dogs are intelligent animals, but even I was surprised when I heard about a dog called Red, at the Battersea Dogs' Home in London. The Home has been caring for lost and unwanted animals for over 140 years. Recently, the staff there got a shock when they came to work in the morning. They found that some of the dogs had got out of their kennels during the night, opened cupboards and taken out food and toys. And it happened again, and again. The manager, Becky Blackmore, described how as many as nine dogs were escaping every night. 'We came in to chaos,' she said. 'Dogs were running around having fun and games and causing a lot of mess. We couldn't understand it.'



Red, a lurcher, opening a kennel

Someone or something was unlocking the kennels during the night. Becky decided that the only way to solve the mystery was to put in cameras to record how the dogs were getting out.

When she and her staff played back the recording, they saw Red, a three-year old lurcher, put his nose through the bars of his kennel and use his teeth to press the button that opened his door. That was clever enough, but Red did more: he unlocked the kennels next to his and let those dogs out too. The group went along the corridor, broke into cupboards and stole dog biscuits and toys to play with.

Becky Blackmore said, 'It's surprising, because lurchers aren't famous for their intelligence. It's amazing that he worked out how to open his own kennel, but also that he then let all his friends out.' Like most of us, I suppose, Red didn't like to party alone!

The story has a happy ending: after Red was shown on television, several people came forward and offered to give him a new home as a family pet. 'We are very pleased about this,' said a member of staff at the Dogs' Home. 'Lurchers are usually difficult to find homes for. When Red arrived here four months ago, he was very thin and in poor condition. Now he can look forward to a comfortable new life with an owner who wants him.'

PART 4

Questions 1-5

- Read the text and questions below.
 - For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – **A, B, C, or D.**
- 1 What is the writer's main purpose in the text?
 - A to describe the work done by the Battersea Dogs' Home
 - B to give an example of how clever dogs can be
 - C to complain about dogs escaping from the Dogs' Home
 - D to ask people to look after unwanted dogs
 - 2 What can readers find out from this text?
 - A that Red didn't like being at the Dogs' Home
 - B that Red and the other dogs escaped because they were hungry
 - C that when Red and his friends escaped they had a good time
 - D that Red and his friends enjoyed being recorded by the camera
 - 3 What did Red do after he got out of his kennel at night?
 - A He took biscuits and toys back to the other dogs.
 - B He showed the other dogs how to unlock their doors.
 - C He slept in a cupboard.
 - D He released the other dogs.

- 4 How did Becky Blackmore feel about what Red did?
 - A She was surprised because she didn't think lurchers were clever enough to do that.
 - B She was angry because he ate the staff's biscuits.
 - C She was pleased because he became a TV star.
 - D She was worried because of the security problems it caused.
- 5 Which TV programme is about Red?

- A Tonight on *Animal Matters*: how security cameras found a dog that went missing in London.
- B Tonight on *Animal Matters*: a Dogs' Home that keeps its animals happy with night-time parties.
- C Tonight on *Animal Matters*: the clever dog that could unlock doors.
- D Tonight on *Animal Matters*: the dogs that rob people's houses during the night.

Answers

1 B 2 C 3 D 4 A 5 C