

Conversation 1

A: Honey, there's this guy Ethan who works in the mailroom at the office.

B: Yeah?

A: Well, he's looking for a good home for his cat. Apparently his wife is _____.

B: Uh-huh.

A: I felt sorry for the cat. So, I went over to his place, and the cat's _____. And you know how much I've always wanted one . . .

B: Uh-oh.

A: No seriously. What would you think of adopting it and taking it in as our cat?

B: I'm not so sure. I've heard they shed and their hair gets all over everything—on the furniture, on your _____ . . . I couldn't put up with that. Who wants to clean up cat hair all the time?

A: Well this one's a Siamese. They're not supposed to shed their hair as much as other cats. And you know, cats don't need much. They're pretty easy to take _____ of.

B: I suppose that's true. My grandmother had one. And I have to admit, her cat was very _____ and loving.

Conversation 2

A: Oh . . . isn't she a cutie?

B: I guess.

A: Look at her, with those long _____! [Baby talk] Aren't you a cute wittle wabbit!

B: Look, I'm not so sure a wabbit—I mean a rabbit!—is a good idea.

A: C'mon. The kids would love her.

B: Yeah, and they'd _____ her to death. Rabbits get frightened really easily, you know.

A: But the kids have always wanted a rabbit. And everyone says rabbits are great with kids. They're not _____ at all.

B: Well, I suppose taking care of a rabbit would teach them a little responsibility.

A: I'm sure it would. They'd have to feed it every day. And they'd have to learn not to scare it.

Conversation 3

A: What would you think about getting a parrot?

B: What? You're kidding, right? You know they cost an arm and a leg!

A: Who cares? They make great companions. Once they get used to you, they're really friendly and love _____.

B: I don't know . . . I've heard they can do a lot of damage. They like to chew on things, like wooden chairs.

A: Well, not if you keep them in a _____.

B: And I've heard they require a lot of care and attention. Between _____ them and cleaning the cage, it's a ton of work.

A: Well, just think about it, OK?

Conversation 4

A: You know, there have been three burglaries in our neighborhood in the last month. I think we should get a big watch dog.

B: Are you _____? We don't need a dog.

A: If we had a dog, and someone tried to break in, it would make a lot of _____ and scare them away.

B: To be honest, I think a big dog would be more _____ than it's worth. It could be very hard to control. And then we'd have to worry about it hurting the kids.

A: Oh come on. It depends on the kind of dog you get. Most big dogs are _____ and fun-loving. They love to play with kids. And all dogs are very reliable and attentive to their _____—both adults and kids.