

3F

Reading

Animal partnerships

I can understand and react to an article about symbiosis.

Revision: Student's Book page 36

- 1 Replace the standard adjectives in bold with six of the emphatic adjectives below.

captivating daunting doomed frenetic miniscule
profound rigid startling

1 There's a **tiny** crack in that glass.

2 Adolescence is a period of **great** change.

3 Zumba can be quite **energetic**.

4 He came to an **astounding** conclusion.

5 They have a **strict** exercise regime.

6 He fell for her **attractive** smile.

Reading Strategy

When you are doing a gapped-paragraph task, read the text quickly, ignoring the gaps, to get a general idea of what it is about. Then read the paragraphs before and after the gap carefully to find out what the topic of the missing paragraph is. Read through the options A–G to find the paragraphs about that topic. Try each paragraph in the gap until you find the one that fits grammatically.

- 2 Read the Reading Strategy. Then read the first two paragraphs of the text and decide what the topic of the missing paragraph should be.

- 3 Read through options A–E. Which is the correct option?

Man's best friend

Humans have collaborated with all kinds of animals throughout history, from cows as livestock to horses for transport. So why is it the dog that has gained the title of man's best friend?

1

The modern dog appeared around 20,000 years later. By this stage, a mutual understanding had developed between the two, by which humans provided shelter and protection in return for the animals' help with hunting. From then on, humans and dogs continued evolving together and became increasingly dependent on each other.

2

In the experiment, thirteen dogs were trained to associate three different objects with different outcomes. A blue toy knight signalled verbal praise, a pink toy truck signalled a treat, and a hairbrush signalled no reward, and was a control. During the study, each dog was tested 32 times to monitor its neural activity.

- 4 Read the text. Match paragraphs A–E with the gaps 2–4. There is one extra paragraph. Remember to follow the procedure in the Reading Strategy.

A While the dogs and their owners experienced a significant rise in what is known as the 'happiness' chemical, no change at all was detected in the wolves or their owners. This could explain the attachment that humans feel for dogs, sometimes treating them like children.

B The researchers found that all the dogs displayed more brain activity when faced with the reward stimuli than the control. This suggests that dogs actively seek the companionship of humans, probably as a result of their evolution together.

C Dogs are certainly one of the first animals to ever interact with humans, although at the time as a species of wolf. The first contact was probably made between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago, when a group of Eurasian grey wolves approached a human settlement in search of food.

D More than 2,300 dogs around the country are helping children to improve their reading. Children who are uncomfortable reading aloud to people are able to practise with a companion who will not judge them, and are more likely to practise words they do not immediately recognise.

E Much research has been done into the extent of this bond. One study conducted by Emory University in the US has succeeded in demonstrating the sociability of dogs in relation to humans.



3

No less fascinating is the effect that dogs have had on humans. Scientists at Azabu University in Japan have recently shown that looking into a dog's eyes activates the same hormonal response that bonds us to human babies. Dogs and wolves were used in the research, which involved the owners and the animals staring into each other's eyes for a set amount of time while their levels of oxytocin were monitored.

4

Today, dogs are not just companions, but assistance animals too, helping children with learning difficulties and adults with mental-health issues. In this way, they most definitely fulfil the role of a best friend.