

# Tobermory

## Part 2- Some Terrible Discoveries

 Listen to the beginning of Part Two and complete the sentences.

Now (1)..... believed Cornelius. They began to ask him lots of questions. Cornelius smiled. He was very (2)..... with his (3) ..... success.

At that moment, when everybody was (4) ..... Cornelius questions, Tobermory walked into the room. (5) ..... of the guests said a (6) ..... . They felt embarrassed in front of a talking cat.

Finally, the hostess – Lady Blemley – said nervously, ‘Would you like (7) ..... milk, Tobermory?’

‘Yes, I’m a (8) ..... thirsty,’ said the cat indifferently.

Everyone in the (9) ..... was shocked. And Lady Blemley’s hand shook as she poured Tobermory some (10) .....

Part Two has been divided into eight sections. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-I) for each section. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

- A He has seen and heard all!
- B Boring but at least you eat well
- C A grave mistake
- D The long, long wait
- E I knew he was right!
- F Better dead than talking
- G And humans think they're more intelligent than us!
- H What do you say to a talking cat?
- I Even cats are worried about their health

**Choose**

- 1 Seven months ago I began to work with cats.

**BEEN**

I ..... with cats for seven months.

- 2 Cats are the perfect animals for my work.

**BETTER**

There are ..... cats for my work.

- 3 'I'll come when I want to,' he said.

**COME**

He said that he ..... wanted to.

- 4 Miss Resker asked Tobermory if it was difficult to learn to speak.

**IS**

'Tobermory, ..... to speak?'  
asked Miss Resker.

- 5 'I'm sorry, but I've spilt most of the milk on the carpet,'  
apologised Lady Blemley.

**FOR**

Lady Blemley ..... most of the milk  
on the carpet.

- 6 Maybe he has taught his girlfriend.

**HAVE**

He ..... his girlfriend.

- 7 His enemy, the big tomcat, killed him.

**BY**

He ..... the big tomcat.

- 8 Tobermory was Cornelius Appin's first and only successful student.

**NOT**

After Tobermory, Cornelius Appin .....  
successful students.

## Talking Animals

(0) ..... Saki was not the first or the (1) ..... writer to (2) ..... talking animals. Books, films and cartoons are full of them.

Then, of course, the loving owners of dogs, cats and horses insist that their pets communicate just as well as any human being can. But what do scientists have to say (3) ..... talking animals?

Well, as you might (4) ....., chimpanzees and gorillas have been closely studied in this regard since they are our closest relatives in the animal world (98% of the genes of chimpanzees and humans are the same!) Indeed some chimpanzees, can learn sign language, a language based on gestures. Some chimpanzees have learned as many as 100 different signs.

More surprising though, was the discovery (5) ..... in the prestigious periodical *Scientific American* in 1996: an African Grey Parrot was taught to count up to six and to recognise and name of around 100 different (6) .....

Incredibly, if the researcher put three bottles in front of the parrot and asked it, How many?, the parrot could respond correctly.



Still, even though these examples of animals learning to communicate as we humans do are surprising, it is even more surprising to learn how animals communicate in the wild. For example, the German scientist Karl von Frisch (1886-1982), who was



one of the (7) ..... of the modern study of animal behaviour, discovered the language of bees. He discovered that bees send out scouts to search for fields of flowers. After finding a field of flowers, these scouts return to the hive and do a special dance which (8) ..... the other bees of the direction, distance and size of the field of flowers. This was a truly exciting discovery, perhaps even more exciting than talking cats!