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## An unusual passenger

WORKSHEET A

One of the regular passengers on a bus route in the city of Plymouth in the south-west of England is a bit unusual – he’s a black and white cat called Casper.

Casper has made a habit of getting on the number 3 bus outside the house of his owner, Susan Finden, in the district of St Budeaux, making the five-mile trip to the city centre, and then coming straight back on the same bus.

Casper waits at the bus stop, gets on the bus when it arrives, then jumps onto an empty seat and watches the world go by.

Mrs Finden didn’t understand why Casper kept disappearing for just over an hour almost every day until one of the bus drivers told her what was happening.

At first she was worried what would happen if one of the drivers let Casper out at the wrong stop, perhaps a long way from home, but most of the drivers are used to having him on the bus and know where they should let him out. And if the driver doesn’t know where Casper lives, there’s always a passenger who does. It also seems Casper knows which the right stop is, although he isn’t able to ring the bell when the bus approaches it.

Mrs Finden thinks the reason for Casper’s unusual habit is because he enjoys being near lots of people and also because he ‘loves big vehicles like lorries and buses’. She got Casper from a home for abandoned cats in 2002 and thinks maybe he used to live somewhere with lots of traffic, which is why he isn’t scared of loud motor vehicles now.

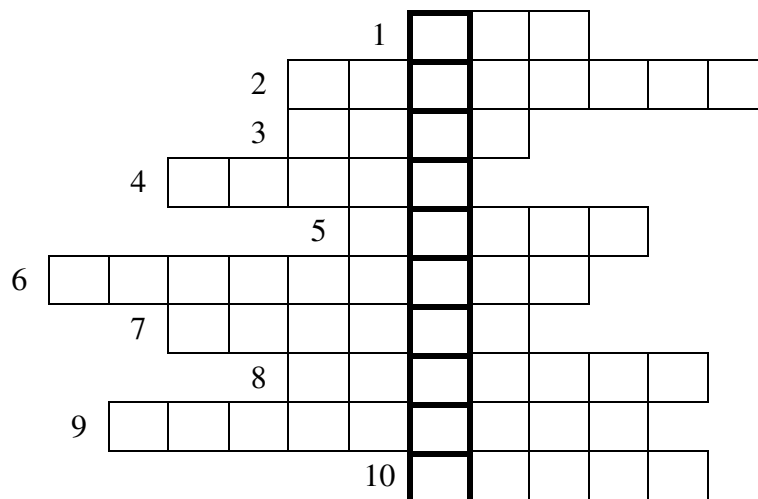
The other passengers all get on well with Casper and don’t seem to be jealous of the fact that, unlike them, he doesn’t have to pay a fare. A woman who works for the bus company, Karen Baxter, jokes that the reason Casper doesn’t pay is that he is about twelve years old, which is about sixty-five in human years, and therefore if he were a human he would be able to get a senior citizens’ bus pass for free travel.

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WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the missing word in the following sentence will read from top to bottom. The people at the bus company like Casper so much that they are thinking of putting a huge \_\_\_\_\_ of him on the side of one of their buses.



1. Casper doesn't have to \_\_\_\_\_ to travel on the bus.
2. Casper seems to like loud \_\_\_\_\_ like buses.
3. He gets on the bus at the bus \_\_\_\_\_ outside Mrs Finden's house.
4. Either the driver or one of the passengers always knows which is the \_\_\_\_\_ stop to let Casper out.
5. Karen Baxter \_\_\_\_\_ for the bus company.
6. Casper is often a \_\_\_\_\_ on the number 3 bus.
7. He travels to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Plymouth and back again.
8. Casper isn't scared of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Mrs Finden didn't understand why Casper used to \_\_\_\_\_ for the same amount of time almost every day.
10. The age of twelve for a cat is about the same as sixty-five for a \_\_\_\_\_.

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WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps to complete the text.

One of the (1) **r \_ g \_ l \_ r** passengers on a bus (2) **rou \_ \_** in the city of Plymouth in the south-west of England is a bit unusual – he’s a black and white cat called Casper. Casper has made a (3) **h \_ \_ it** of getting on the number 3 bus outside the house of his owner, Susan Finden, in the (4) **d \_ st \_ \_ ct** of St Budeaux, making the five-mile (5) **t \_ \_ p** to the city centre, and then coming straight back on the same bus.

Casper waits at the bus stop, gets on the bus when it arrives, then (6) **j \_ \_ \_ s** onto an empty seat and watches the world go by.

Mrs Finden didn’t understand why Casper kept disappearing for just over an hour almost every day until one of the bus drivers told her what was (7) **h \_ \_ \_ \_ ning**.

At first she was (8) **w \_ \_ \_ ied** what would happen if one of the drivers let Casper out at the (9) **w \_ \_ \_ g** stop, perhaps a long way from home, but most of the drivers are used to (10) **h \_ \_ \_ ng** him on the bus and know where they should let him out. And if the driver doesn’t know where Casper (11) **l \_ \_ \_ s**, there’s always a passenger who does. It also seems Casper knows which the right stop is, although he isn’t able to ring the (12) **\_ \_ ll** when the bus (13) **app \_ \_ \_ ch \_ \_** it.

Mrs Finden thinks the reason for Casper’s unusual habit is because he enjoys being near lots of people and also because he ‘loves big vehicles like (14) **l \_ rr \_ \_ s** and buses’. She got Casper from a (15) **h \_ \_ \_** for abandoned cats in 2002 and thinks maybe he used to live somewhere with lots of traffic, which is why he isn’t scared of loud motor vehicles (16) **\_ \_ w**.

The other passengers all (17) **\_ \_ t o \_** well with Casper and don’t seem to be (18) **jeal \_ \_ \_** of the fact that, unlike them, he doesn’t have to pay a fare. A woman who works for the bus company, Karen Baxter, (19) **\_ ok \_ \_** that the reason Casper doesn’t pay is that he is about twelve years old, which is about sixty-five in human years, and therefore if he were a human he would be able to get a senior (20) **c \_ t \_ z \_ \_ s’** bus pass for free travel.