

An unusual passenger

This week's lesson is about a regular traveller on the number 3 bus in the city of Plymouth in the south-west of England – a black and white cat called Casper.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students if they can think of any stories about pets doing unusual things – if so, encourage them to tell the rest of the class. You could then show them one of the photos of Casper (see *Related Websites*) and ask them to guess the unusual thing he does. What would the students do if they saw a cat or dog travelling without its owner on public transport?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs, hand out Worksheet B, and ask them to work together to complete the crossword.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. pay 2. vehicles 3. stop 4. right 5. works 6. passenger
7. centre 8. traffic 9. disappear 10. human

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *photograph* will read from top to bottom.

5. Ask the students to put away Worksheets A and B or to temporarily hand them back to you. Then, keeping the students in pairs, hand out Worksheet C and give them another ten minutes for the gap-fill exercise in which they have complete the missing words from the text. If the students cannot remember what the words are, encourage them to try to work them out from the context of the sentence. You might also want to point out that some of the words feature in the glossary.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. regular 2. route 3. habit 4. district 5. trip 6. jumps
7. happening 8. worried 9. wrong 10. having 11. lives 12. bell 13.
approaches 14. lorries 15. home 16. now 17. get on 18. jealous 19. jokes
20. citizens

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/devon/8174850.stm>

The short piece about Casper on the BBC website, with accompanying video.

Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.peoplepets.com/news/amazing/commuter-kitty-meet-casper-the-bus-riding-cat/1>

The Casper story as told on the *People Pets* website, with one photograph.

Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/news/Plymouth-Kittybus-prefer-Furst/article-1202762-detail/article.html>

A longer text on Casper from a Plymouth local newspaper, with a slide show of photographs. Intermediate level and above.