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My humans Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme can be used to support material in Unit 11 of the Student's Book. It is a drama about a dog and his humans seen from the viewpoint of the dog.

Language focus

Grammar: present simple for routine; expressions of preference

Vocabulary: personality adjectives: *kind, energetic, intelligent, lazy, naughty, loyal, independent*
expressions: *to get on well with (someone), to be interested in, to be keen on (something), to make decisions, to worry about*

Background information

The British are famous for their love of animals and they certainly keep a lot of pets – seven million people own a dog and eight million own a cat. Pet owners spend a massive amount of money on pet food, equipment and vets' bills. There are many people who breed and show their animals. One particular dog show, Crufts, which is held in London, is famous in the UK, and is even covered on British TV. Other contests that are popular are those showing working dogs such as sheep dogs, which are used in the UK to help look after sheep.

Unfortunately, not everyone in the UK is kind to animals, and there are many organisations such as the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) that protect animals and campaign for changes to the law. There are also dogs' and cats' homes, such as the famous Battersea Dogs' Home in London, where people can go and choose a new pet from the abandoned animals that are kept there.

Most British people treat their pets as part of the family and keep them in the house, even allowing them to sleep on beds and sofas. However, some things are changing. In many parks nowadays dog owners are legally obliged to clear up the mess that their dog makes.

Procedure

Before you watch

- As a warm up, ask the students to talk briefly about their pets if they have any. Then put them into pairs and tell them to look at the picture. Ask them to guess which adjectives apply to each character. This

is a speculative exercise and there are no right or wrong answers.

While you watch

- Tell the students to look at the pictures and describe them before watching. Then play the programme and ask them to put the pictures in order.

a) 2 b) 6 c) 5 d) 3 e) 1 f) 4

- Tell the students to read the sentences and see if they can remember who Bruno is talking about.
- Ask the students to say what Bruno is like. Is he intellectual/active/intelligent/healthy/loving etc? Then ask them to look at the opinions and try to remember which ones are right and which are wrong. Ask the students to correct the wrong opinions.
- Tell the students to watch the programme again and check their answers to Exercises 3 and 4. Then check the answers as a class.

- 3
- a) Alice d) Bob g) Bruno
b) Bob e) Bruno h) Bob
c) Alice f) Candy i) Alice
- 4
- a) ✓
b) ✓
c) Wrong. It isn't always easy living with humans.
d) Wrong. I've never been interested in philosophical questions.
e) Wrong. I'm a dog of actions, not words.
f) ✓
g) ✓
h) Wrong. I prefer sleeping on the bed.
i) ✓

If there is time, let the students watch the complete programme at the end so they can enjoy the whole film.

After you watch

- 6 Ask the students to complete the sentences. If there is time, play the programme again for them to check their answers. Tell them to call out when they hear the sentences.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| a) positive attitude | d) worry about |
| b) Unfortunately | e) main problem |
| c) on the whole | f) I suppose |

- 7 Ask the students to think about their daily life and complete the sentences. Then put them in pairs and tell them to compare their opinions.
- 8 This exercise can be done as homework if there isn't time in class.

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My humans

DVD script (05:39)

(B = Bruno; A = Alice; Bo = Bob; C = Candy)

B: Hi. My name's Bruno. I'm a collie. And these are my humans, Bob and Alice. They're both in their thirties, which is still quite young for humans. They're kind and have nice personalities, although I don't think they're very intelligent. Alice has got a very positive attitude to life, she laughs a lot and she, erm, she gives me unconditional love, which is nice. Bob often does silly things that make me smile. He isn't very independent – Alice makes all the big decisions, and, er, I suppose he's a bit lazy. But he's a good companion. It isn't always easy living with humans, but on the whole, we get on very well.

B: Bob doesn't take much exercise. I often worry about him because he's not very fit. I'm keen on running but with Bob I have to go quite slowly. It's a drag, really. It's better in the park, though. He takes off my lead so I can run around. The park's really cool. I sometimes meet up with friends here. I like an Afghan that lives near here. Her name's Candy. When we meet up we often have a chat. She's quite intellectual and just loves asking difficult questions.

C: If you were a famous human being, what famous human being would you like to be?

B: Erm ... I don't know, really.

C: If you were an animal, what animal would you like to be?

B: Erm ... a dog.

C: If you were a car, what car would you like to be?

B: Erm ... a blue one?

C: Intriguing.

B: I've never been interested in philosophical questions. I prefer doing things. You know, like chasing cats or barking at the postman. I'm a dog of action, not words.

Bo: Good boy, you good boy! Yes, good boy.

A: Here you are, Bruno.

B: My humans nearly always give me tinned food. It isn't very attractive, is it? I've never been keen on convenience food. It all tastes the same really. But the main problem is, it's not very good for you.

A: What's the matter, Bruno? Aren't you hungry?

B: I try to keep in good condition but it's not easy. If I could go out on my own it would be fine. But, well, I have to go out with Bob, and Bob doesn't like running. I suppose I worry about it a bit because your health's the most important thing, really.

A: Would you like some biscuits, Bruno? Come on. Eat up your dinner. OK, OK. Come on, eat up your dinner. Eat up your dinner. Go on! Come on!

B: I do like biscuits, though. They're not organic but they've got a lovely flavour. And they're really crunchy.

B: In the afternoons, I enjoy a little nap. I have a dog basket with an old blanket but I don't find it very comfortable. I prefer sleeping on their bed. Unfortunately, Alice disapproves of this.

A: Bruno! How many times have I told you? Get down!

B: I hate it when humans keep you awake during the day.

Bo: He's a good dog, Bruno.

A: He's no trouble at all.

Bo: No ... I just have to take him for walks ... but that's all right, really. It gets me out the house.

A: He's very loyal.

Bo: Oh yes, dogs are loyal. Man's best friend. Not like cats.

A: No, although cats are more intelligent.

Bo: Probably.

A: I don't think Bruno thinks a lot.

Bo: Bruno? No.

B: I really think Candy fancies me. The next time she asks me one of those questions, I'm going to say something really clever. Something philosophical. Like, um, if I were a famous human, what human would I like to be? And my answer? Einstein, or maybe Leonardo da Vinci. Yeah. That'll surprise her.