Luiza Gervescu

LIMBA ENGLEZĂ

A Rainbow of English

MANUAL OPȚIONAL pentru clasele IV-VI

CORINT

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ARGUMENT

Motto: “I can’t remember all the times I tried to tell myself to hold on to these moments as they pass.”[1]
(Counting Crows, *A Long December*)

E un dar să fii profesor. Nu mulți sunt cei care l-au primit. Sunt norocoasă să spun că eu mă aflu printre ei. Dar, cum a oferi este cel puțin la fel de minunat ca şi a primi, m-am gândit că este momentul să le ofer încă o carte elevilor mei, care sunt motivația şi inspirația mea de atâția ani de zile. Sunt mândră că i-am cunoscut şi sper că le va face plăcere să exploreze lumea din paginile care urmează, pentru că orice carte oferă perspectiva unei noi lumi.

A Rainbow of English este mai mult decât un manual pentru cursurile opționale de limba engleză. Încă de la prima pagină, copiii intră în lumea lui „A fost odată ca niciodată...”. Toate basmele încep aşa. Cartea prezintă povestea unui cățeluş care îşi caută o familie şi o găseşte în oraşul fermecat al alfabetului. Mulțumită lui, copiii vor călători, vor învăța şi se vor bucura în timp ce vor parcurge cele douăsprezece capitole, în care vor merge pe urmele norocosului cățeluş. Cartea le pune la dispoziție exerciții, poezii scrise de copii de o vârstă apropiată de a lor şi poveşti culese din folclorul

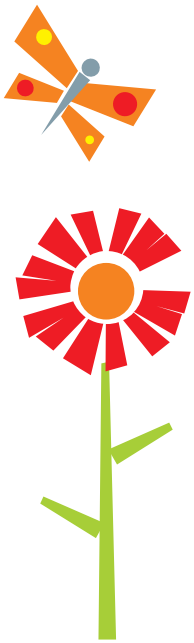
[1] „Nici nu-mi amintesc de câte ori mi-am spus să mă țin strâns de clipele astea care trec.”

internațional. Manualul îşi propune să îi învețe cuvinte noi, pe care le vor folosi în scurte traduceri, ajutându-i să se exprime mai cursiv şi mai corect în limba engleză. Nu în cele din urmă, împrietenirea cu noile personaje îi va ajuta să se cunoască pe ei înşişi.

Dragi colegi, sper că această carte va fi un motiv pentru elevii de clasele a IV-a, a V-a şi a VI-a de a învăța „de drag" – o metodă rapidă şi plăcută de instruire, pe care nu o regăsim deocamdată teoretizată în nicio carte de metodologie.

Cât despre mine, aş vrea în final să le mulțumesc elevilor mei, pentru că: „To teach is to learn twice."[1]

Luiza Gervescu



[1] „A preda înseamnă a învăța de două ori." (Joseph Joubert)

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Chapter 1

Hi! I am Woof

My name is Woof. I am a five-month old puppy. My life story is very simple: I was born last April, on a lovely meadow in the mountains, but I have never met my family. Many times, I have tried to find myself a home, but, every single time, I discovered everyone was too busy for me. Just when I thought I would never belong anywhere, I found a strange envelope by my side when I woke up, one morning, about one month ago. Inside the envelope, there was a strange diploma.

Imagine my surprise! Especially as I was still very lonely, and my life seemed to be very similar to the way it was when I had gone to bed, a few hours before. Let me show it to you:

DIPLOMA

This is to be awarded to WOOF,
the bravest and best-loved puppy around,
for finding the best family in the whole world.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Date
4673.163.235385

Signed,
Your Guardian Angel

Things only started making sense the second I took a closer look at the date, spelt in small characters on the left bottom corner. It spelt encoded letters which gave me courage… so, I said to myself it was worth taking one more shot at trying to make my dream come true.

I was in a strange city at that time, but I decided it had to become my home-town. So, I just stood up, shook myself and rubbed my eyes before I could read the name of the city on a small direction plate placed right on the fence I had slept by:

I had nothing left to do but start exploring the city, looking for “the best family in the whole world”. After all, I was “the bravest and (hopefully soon-to-become) the best loved puppy around”…

If you have got the time to join me, I would be glad to show you what I found on my way to Happiness!

Exercises

1 Fill in the blanks to complete the following poem:

Jimmy Jones flew through space
Riding on a rocket.
He landed on the _____ and brought
Some rays home in his _____.

2 You have just met Woof, your new friend, the puppy. At the beginning of the story, he is just an innocent, helpless baby, waiting to discover the world… Sam, a child of an age close to yours, has tried to put these confused feelings into words. If you already consider yourself a new friend of Woof's, it is your time to give him some pieces of advice on how to approach his great adventure of world discovery.

A Baby's World

by Sam Feldman, aged 11

Big.
Big people.
Big toys.

Smiles.
Smiley faces
looking down on me.

Noise
Noise everywhere.
Noise coming from people.
Big People.

Light.
Light everywhere.
Very bright.
Very bright smiles.

Mummy.
Daddy.
Talking. They say a funny word.
"Coochie-coo."

What's that?
More noise.
Noise.
Light.
Smiles.
Big.

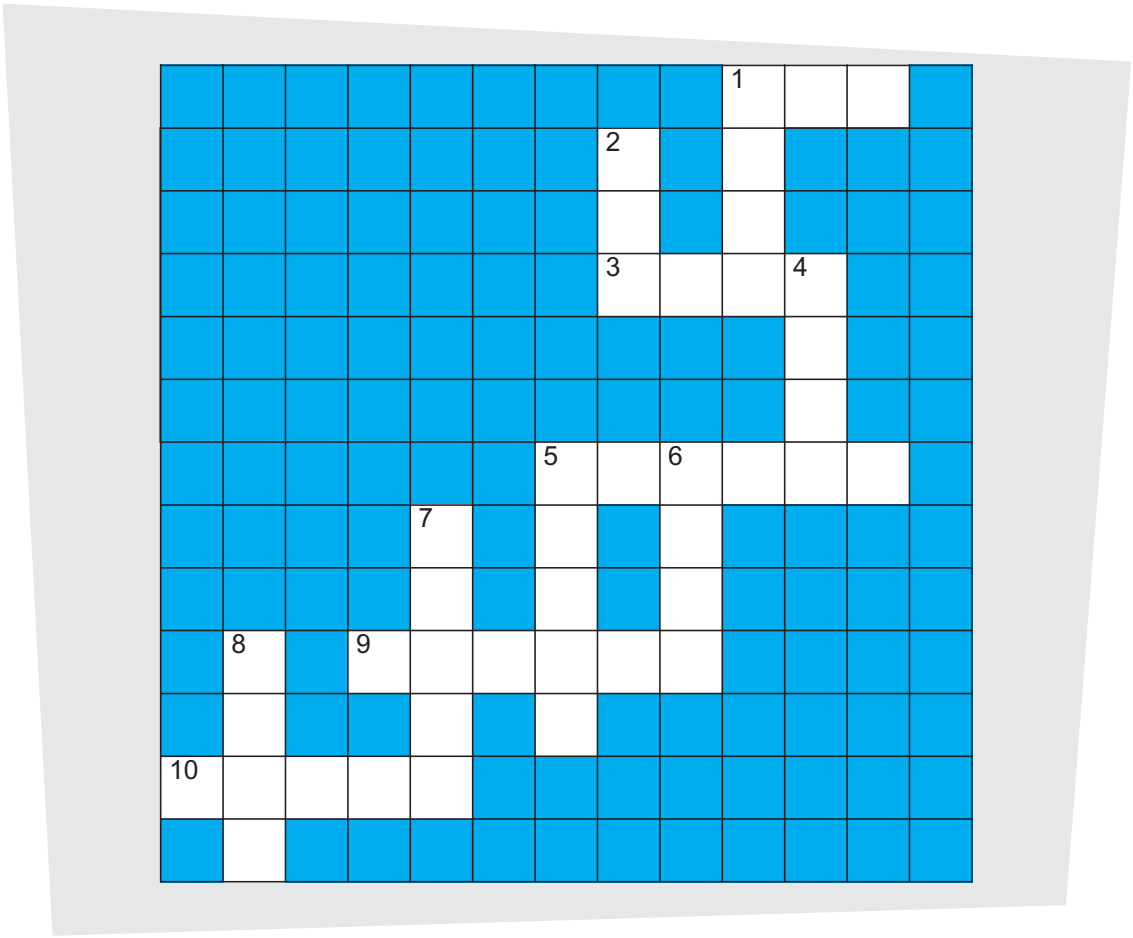
Mummy... WAAAH!!!

Dear Woof,

All my friendship, _____

3 Fill in the following crossword puzzle:

Opposites



Across

1. near
3. short
5. summer
9. big
10. sad

Down

1. empty
2. cold
4. hate
5. black
6. mean
7. dull
8. strong

Irregular Verbs Matching Exercise

Match the items on the right with the items on the left.

teach – taught –	woken
tell – told –	won
think – thought –	understood
understand – understood –	told
wear – wore –	thought
win – won –	written
wake – woke –	worn
write – wrote –	taught

Chapter 2

Welcome to ABCity

ABCity is much larger than I had imagined! There are hundreds of streets leading everywhere and you could easily get lost! So, I decided I would start my search the best way I knew: I would sniff my way onward and I would see what I can find...

... Rring... rring... The alarm clock again?! But it's quite late in the morning for a wake-up call! Wait... a flying alarm clock? What is that?

Trying to find an answer to these questions, I looked around and I saw that I was in the middle of a lovely fair. Then, I heard a voice:

My name is *Adam* and I am an *acrobat*. I am *able* to jump very high and do magic tricks.

Once, I turned an *apple* into an *alarm clock*. It was *amazing*.

Adam... funny name! I wonder if he could teach me how to do magic tricks, too. The best trick I could learn would be to be able to swim – I love the sea, but I am so afraid of swimming!

Right next to him, there was another man who seemed very willing to become my friend. Before I had a chance to say “Hi!”, he hurried to say:

Hi, I am *Bart*. Adam is my *brother* and we *both* live in a *beautiful* house on the *beach*.

I am a *builder*. I *build boats* and I love travelling at sea.

The sea, again... This brought back a salty smell and a nice feeling of freedom. So as to allow it to settle in, I closed my eyes for a second, remembering my one single voyage at sea, when I stumbled and fell. I opened my eyes and looked around, ashamed, but I was no longer on the ground. Somebody had lifted me up and told me, in a gentle voice: “Hi… Would you like to join me, one day?”

I was just about to nod to the nice gentleman, and make him understand I would just love to, when I heard a thunder of powerful bangs, that made me close my eyes again and cover my ears with my small paws. What could that be?