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Level 3

Couple must lose pets or home

4th November, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England could lose their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I do. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

Sources: <http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/01/couple-with-21-guinea-pigs-face-eviction-because-they-wont-give-up-their-pets-5475033/>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/couple-claim-21-guinea-pigs-6746928>
<http://www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/Devon-couple-evicted-refusing-21-8216-mystic-8217/story-28089830-detail/story.html>

WARM-UPS

1. PETS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pets. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

couple / lose / home / pets / rented / guinea pigs / animals / unacceptable / contract / fight / cancer / mind / happy / reporters / mystic / special powers / personal problems

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PET: What would these animals be like as a pet? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Animal	Good things	Bad things
Guinea pig		
Snake		
Spider		
Fox		
Goldfish		
Chicken		

4. WILD: Students A **strongly** believe all animals should be in the wild and not in people's homes as pets; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BEST PET: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- dog
- cat
- hamster
- snake
- koala
- parrot
- cow
- goldfish

6. HOME: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "home". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A couple in England have to choose between their pets or their house. | T / F |
| b. The couple have 21 pet pigs. | T / F |
| c. The house owners say the number of pets is not acceptable. | T / F |
| d. The owners of the house want the couple to sign a "no-pet" contract. | T / F |
| e. The husband said his pets helped him to fight cancer. | T / F |
| f. The husband said his guinea pigs have special powers. | T / F |
| g. The local community does not like couple's pets. | T / F |
| h. The husband refuses to let anyone see, touch or talk to his pets. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. couple | a. unsatisfactory |
| 2. get rid of | b. journalists |
| 3. unacceptable | c. shortly |
| 4. allowed | d. nearby |
| 5. warned | e. husband and wife |
| 6. fight | f. manage |
| 7. soon | g. notified |
| 8. reporters | h. remove |
| 9. cope | i. battle |
| 10. local | j. permitted |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. A couple in England could | a. out of the house |
| 2. they want to live | b. as much as I do |
| 3. not allowed in | c. of the guinea pigs |
| 4. they must move | d. cancer |
| 5. if they do not get rid | e. lose their home |
| 6. they have helped him fight | f. off his cancer |
| 7. help take his mind | g. are mystic |
| 8. his guinea pigs | h. with their pets |
| 9. helped his neighbours with personal | i. the contract |
| 10. love them just | j. problems |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England could (1) _____ their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their (2) _____ home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The (3) _____ of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too (4) _____ pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the (5) _____ of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not (6) _____ in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must (7) _____ out of the house if they do not get (8) _____ of the guinea pigs.

owners
number
move
lose
rid
rented
allowed
many

Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him (9) _____ cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he (10) _____ several guinea pigs to help take his (11) _____ off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are (12) _____ - they have special powers to help people. He said the animals have (13) _____ helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me (14) _____." He added: "The local (15) _____ love them just as much as I do. I sometimes (16) _____ them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

mind
even
bought
community
fight
loan
mystic
cope

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

- 1) A couple in England could lose their home because they want to _____
 - a. live with their pet
 - b. live with their pets
 - c. live with them pets
 - d. live with there pets
- 2) Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their _____
 - a. 21 pet bunny pigs
 - b. 21 pet grinning pigs
 - c. 21 pet gleaming pigs
 - d. 21 pet guinea pigs
- 3) A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's _____
 - a. house is not acceptable
 - b. house is unaccepted
 - c. house is unacceptable
 - d. house is not accepted
- 4) the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed _____
 - a. to lend the house
 - b. to rent the house
 - c. to rend the house
 - d. to lent the house
- 5) they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of _____
 - a. the guinea pig
 - b. them guinea pigs
 - c. them guinea pig
 - d. the guinea pigs
- 6) Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped _____
 - a. him fight cancer
 - b. him flight cancer
 - c. him fright cancer
 - d. him fights cancer
- 7) Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his _____
 - a. mend off his cancer
 - b. mined off his cancer
 - c. mind off his cancer
 - d. minds off his cancer
- 8) He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him _____ cancer
 - a. forgot about his
 - b. forget about his
 - c. forgets about his
 - d. forgetting about his
- 9) He said the animals have even helped his neighbours _____
 - a. with personality problems
 - b. with personalise problems
 - c. with personally problems
 - d. with personal problems
- 10) I sometimes loan them out to people if they need _____
 - a. someone too talk to
 - b. someone to talk to
 - c. someone to talk too
 - d. someone too talk too

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England (1) _____ home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall (2) _____ rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the (3) _____ many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number (4) _____ the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets (5) _____ in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they (6) _____ of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, (7) _____ guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him (8) _____ 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help (9) _____ his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made (10) _____ his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped (11) _____ cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I do. I sometimes (12) _____ people if they need someone to talk to."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

1. In which part of England do the couple live?

2. How many pets do the couple have?

3. What did the PCH say about the number of animals in the house?

4. What did the couple sign to live in the house?

5. What must the couple do to be able to stay in their house?

6. How old is Mr Restall?

7. When did Mr Restall find out he had cancer?

8. What makes Mr Restall forget about his cancer?

9. What do the guinea pigs help neighbours with?

10. Who loves the guinea pigs as much as Mr Restall?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

1. In which part of England do the couple live?
 - a) the north
 - b) the southwest
 - c) the middle
 - d) London
2. How many pets do the couple have?
 - a) 19
 - b) 20
 - c) 21
 - d) 22
3. What did the PCH say about the number of animals in the house?
 - a) it's OK
 - b) nothing
 - c) there should be more
 - d) it's unacceptable
4. What did the couple sign to live in the house?
 - a) a cheque
 - b) a contract
 - c) a credit card
 - d) a birthday card
5. What must the couple do to be able to stay in their house?
 - a) get rid of their pets
 - b) pay more rent
 - c) decorate
 - d) cut the grass
6. How old is Mr Restall?
 - a) 57
 - b) 56
 - c) 55
 - d) 54
7. When did Mr Restall find out he had cancer?
 - a) 2007
 - b) 2008
 - c) 2009
 - d) 2010
8. What makes Mr Restall forget about his cancer?
 - a) medicine
 - b) long walks
 - c) his pets
 - d) music
9. What do the guinea pigs help neighbours with?
 - a) security
 - b) snakes
 - c) cats
 - d) personal problems
10. Who loves the guinea pigs as much as Mr Restall?
 - a) the local farmer
 - b) the local community
 - c) the local foxes
 - d) the local pet shop

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Role A – Dog

You think a dog is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a cow or a goldfish.

Role B – Hamster

You think a hamster is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a dog, a cow or a goldfish.

Role C – Cow

You think a cow is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a dog or a goldfish.

Role D – Goldfish

You think a goldfish is the best pet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a hamster, a cow or a dog.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'south' and 'west'.

south	west
--------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rented• many• number• allowed• signed• move	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fight• mind• happy• reporters• cope• loan
--	--

PETS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pets in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

PETS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pet'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) How important are pets?
- 5) What should Mr and Mrs Restall do?
- 6) What do you think of the property company?
- 7) What kind of pets do you think guinea pigs make?
- 8) Should there be a limit to the number of pets you can have?
- 9) Why does the property company think 21 pets is too many?
- 10) What pet would you really like?

Couple must lose pets or home – 4th November, 2015
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PETS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What do you know about guinea pigs?
- 13) What's the strangest pet you can think of?
- 14) How unfair would it be for Mr Restall to lose his pets?
- 15) How can pets help people who are ill?
- 16) What do you think of the guinea pigs being mystic?
- 17) How do you cope with personal problems?
- 18) Why do people keep pets?
- 19) What advice do you have for Mr and Mrs Restall?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the property company?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England could (1) _____ their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The (2) _____ of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too (3) _____ pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get (4) _____ of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not (5) _____ in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they (6) _____ move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have (7) _____ him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon (8) _____, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his (9) _____ off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special (10) _____ to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me (11) _____ my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I (12) _____. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) lost | (b) loses | (c) lose | (d) losing |
| 2. | (a) owners | (b) owns | (c) owned | (d) owes |
| 3. | (a) many | (b) most | (c) much | (d) maximum |
| 4. | (a) rid | (b) riddance | (c) rids | (d) ride |
| 5. | (a) allowance | (b) allowed | (c) allows | (d) allowable |
| 6. | (a) had | (b) ought | (c) have | (d) must |
| 7. | (a) helping | (b) helps | (c) helped | (d) help |
| 8. | (a) now | (b) later | (c) then | (d) after |
| 9. | (a) mind | (b) brain | (c) head | (d) think |
| 10. | (a) powerful | (b) powers | (c) powered | (d) powering |
| 11. | (a) thought | (b) through | (c) thorough | (d) though |
| 12. | (a) love | (b) fall | (c) be | (d) do |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Paragraph 1

1. live in their neetrd home
2. eshowsttu England
3. The esonwr of the house
4. the couple's house is neaccaetulbp
5. not wodlael in the contract
6. The PCH ndarwe Mr and Mrs Restall

Paragraph 2

7. helped him ihgtf cancer
8. he bought valeser guinea pigs
9. his guinea pigs are smitcy
10. helped his sbgrehouni (UK) / gnhsiboer (USA)
11. pnosaler problems
12. The local tunmicomy

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must move
- () out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.
- () about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local
- () cancer in 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind
- () rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's house is
- () Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had
- () him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to
- () Homes (PCH), say the couple have too many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get
- () help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke
- () rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community
- () unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple
- (**1**) A couple in England could lose their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their
- () off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made
- () community love them just as much as I do. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

1. home their Lose pets their with live to want they because .

2. in have pets house couple many the The too .

3. animals in the couple's house is unacceptable The number of .

4. rent the to house contract signed the The couple .

5. not of pigs do rid guinea they get the If .

6. have He guinea they him his because helped needs pigs .

7. made again said pets happy He new him his .

8. reporters guinea mystic told his are He that pigs .

9. community local The do I as much as just them love .

10. loan sometimes I someone need they if people to out them .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England could *lose* / *lost* their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their *rent* / *rented* home in southwest England with *them* / *their* 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too *much* / *many* pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid *of* / *for* the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the *number* / *numeral* of animals in the couple's house is *unacceptably* / *unacceptable*. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not *allowable* / *allowed* in the contract the couple *singed* / *signed* to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must *move* / *movement* out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs.

Mr Restall, 57, said he *needs* / *needing* his guinea pigs because they have helped him *fight* / *fighting* cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he *bought* / *brought* several guinea pigs to help take his mind *from* / *off* his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about *his* / *him* cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have *specially* / *special* powers to help people. He said the animals have even *help* / *helped* his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me *through* / *though* my cancer. They've helped me *cope* / *coped*." He added: "The local community love them just as much as I *do* / *them*. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

_ c _ pl _ _ n _ ngl _ nd c _ ld l _ s _ th _ r h _ m _ b _ c _ s _
th _ y w _ nt t _ l _ v _ w _ th th _ r p _ ts. Cl _ v _ _ nd R _ s _
R _ st _ ll l _ v _ _ n th _ r r _ nt _ d h _ m _ _ n s _ thw _ st
_ ngl _ nd w _ th th _ r 21 p _ t g _ n _ _ p _ gs. Th _ _ wn _ rs _ f
th _ h _ s _ , Plym _ th C _ mm _ n _ ty H _ m _ s (PCH), s _ y th _
c _ pl _ h _ v _ t _ m _ ny p _ ts _ n th _ h _ s _ . PCH w _ nt Mr
_ nd Mrs R _ st _ ll t _ g _ t r _ d _ f th _ g _ n _ _ p _ gs. _
sp _ k _ sp _ rs _ n fr _ m th _ PCH s _ d th _ n _ mb _ r _ f
_ n _ m _ ls _ n th _ c _ pl _ 's h _ s _ _ s _ n _ cc _ pt _ bl _ . Th _
sp _ k _ sp _ rs _ n _ dd _ d th _ t th _ n _ mb _ r _ f p _ ts _ s _ n _ t
_ ll _ w _ d _ n th _ c _ ntr _ ct th _ c _ pl _ s _ gn _ d t _ r _ nt th _
h _ s _ . Th _ PCH w _ rn _ d Mr _ nd Mrs R _ st _ ll th _ t th _ y
m _ st m _ v _ _ t _ f th _ h _ s _ _ f th _ y d _ n _ t g _ t r _ d _ f
th _ g _ n _ _ p _ gs.

Mr R _ st _ ll, 57, s _ d h _ n _ _ ds h _ s _ g _ n _ _ p _ gs
b _ c _ s _ th _ y h _ v _ h _ lp _ d h _ m f _ ght c _ nc _ r. D _ ct _ rs
t _ ld h _ m h _ h _ d c _ nc _ r _ n 2010. S _ n _ ft _ r, h _ b _ ght
s _ v _ r _ l g _ n _ _ p _ gs t _ h _ lp t _ k _ h _ s m _ nd _ ff h _ s
c _ nc _ r. H _ s _ d h _ s n _ w p _ ts m _ d _ h _ m h _ ppy _ g _ n
b _ c _ s _ th _ y m _ d _ h _ m f _ rg _ t _ b _ t h _ s c _ nc _ r. H _
t _ ld r _ p _ rt _ rs th _ t h _ s g _ n _ _ p _ gs _ r _ myst _ c - th _ y
h _ v _ sp _ c _ l p _ w _ rs t _ h _ lp p _ pl _ . H _ s _ d th _
_ n _ m _ ls h _ v _ _ v _ n h _ lp _ d h _ s n _ ghb _ rs w _ th
p _ rs _ n _ l pr _ bl _ ms. Mr R _ st _ ll sp _ k _ _ b _ t h _ s p _ ts,
s _ y _ ng: "Th _ y'v _ h _ lp _ d m _ thr _ gh my c _ nc _ r.
Th _ y'v _ h _ lp _ d m _ c _ p _ ." H _ _ dd _ d: "Th _ l _ c _ l
c _ mm _ n _ ty l _ v _ th _ m j _ st _ s m _ ch _ s _ _ d _ . _
s _ m _ t _ m _ s l _ _ n th _ m _ _ t t _ p _ pl _ _ f th _ y n _ d
s _ m _ _ n _ t _ t _ lk _ t _ ."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

a couple in england could lose their home because they want to live with their pets clive and rose restall live in their rented home in southwest england with their 21 pet guinea pigs the owners of the house plymouth community homes (pch) say the couple have too many pets in the house pch want mr and mrs restall to get rid of the guinea pigs a spokesperson from the pch said the number of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable the spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed to rent the house the pch warned mr and mrs restall that they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs

mr restall 57 said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer doctors told him he had cancer in 2010 soon after he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind off his cancer he said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer he told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special powers to help people he said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems mr restall spoke about his pets saying "they've helped me through my cancer they've helped me cope" he added "the local community love them just as much as i do i sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

A couple in England could lose their home because they want to live with their pets. Clive and Rose Restall live in their rented home in southwest England with their 21 pet guinea pigs. The owners of the house, Plymouth Community Homes (PCH), say the couple have too many pets in the house. PCH want Mr and Mrs Restall to get rid of the guinea pigs. A spokesperson from the PCH said the number of animals in the couple's house is unacceptable. The spokesperson added that the number of pets is not allowed in the contract the couple signed to rent the house. The PCH warned Mr and Mrs Restall that they must move out of the house if they do not get rid of the guinea pigs. Mr Restall, 57, said he needs his guinea pigs because they have helped him fight cancer. Doctors told him he had cancer in 2010. Soon after, he bought several guinea pigs to help take his mind off his cancer. He said his new pets made him happy again because they made him forget about his cancer. He told reporters that his guinea pigs are mystic – they have special power to help people. He said the animals have even helped his neighbours with personal problems. Mr Restall spoke about his pets, saying: "They've helped me through my cancer. They've helped me cope." He added: "The local community loves them just as much as I do. I sometimes loan them out to people if they need someone to talk to."

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Write about **pets** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1511/151104-pets.html>

Animals should live in the wild, not as pets in people's houses. Discuss.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about pets. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PETS: Make a poster about pets. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PET LIMIT: Write a magazine article about a limit on the number of pets people can have. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on pets. Ask him/her three questions about pets. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c T d F e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. couple | a. husband and wife |
| 2. get rid of | b. remove |
| 3. unacceptable | c. unsatisfactory |
| 4. allowed | d. permitted |
| 5. warned | e. notified |
| 6. fight | f. battle |
| 7. soon | g. shortly |
| 8. reporters | h. journalists |
| 9. cope | i. manage |
| 10. local | j. nearby |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The southwest
2. 21
3. There are too many / It's unacceptable
4. A contract
5. Get rid of their pets
6. 57
7. 2010
8. His guinea pigs
9. Personal problems
10. The local community

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)