



## Best Friends Forever (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. Have you ever had a dog?
2. If so, was it a pet or a working dog (e.g. a guard dog or a sheep dog, etc.)?
3. How much do you think a dog understands when its owner tries to communicate with it?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. The domestication of dogs began in Africa.
2. Some studies have found that dog-owners are psychologically and physically healthier.
3. Juliane Kaminski says domestication occurred because dogs and humans adapted to each other.
4. She thinks dogs are better at understanding verbal commands than understanding gestures.
5. According to Kaminski, a chimpanzee that is raised with humans can be considered a pet.
6. Over 80 per cent of dogs in the world live in people's homes as pets.
7. Juliane Kaminsky is not scandalised by the fact that dogs are eaten in some parts of the world.
8. According to some studies, cats have the same ability to understand words as dogs do.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. Why are dogs referred to as 'man's best friend'?
2. How do we know that dogs descended from the grey wolf?
3. What research is carried out at the Dog Cognition Centre of the University of Portsmouth?
4. Why is the Centre studying the domestication of dogs rather than that of other animals?
5. What characteristics did humans look for when selecting and breeding dogs?
6. Why was Chaser famous?
7. What kinds of changes have enabled dogs to live in the environment we have created for them?
8. What can dogs do much better than wolves?
9. Why are cats more difficult to study than dogs?
10. What difference is there between cats and dogs in their motivation to follow cues?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)*

1. If you apply for British citizenship, you may have to \_\_\_\_\_ an English language test.
2. We didn't measure the table in the shop, but I would say it was \_\_\_\_\_ two metres long.
3. Daisy keeps herself to herself. She doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ with any of her classmates.
4. During their holiday in Scotland, Joe and Anne \_\_\_\_\_ seafood most evenings.
5. That's a strange-looking dog! I wonder what \_\_\_\_\_ it is.
6. Helen's got a job and three small children! How does she \_\_\_\_\_ everything?

## E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4))

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Certainly humans were involved in the evolution of the wolf into the friendly dog.

ROLE Certainly humans had a role in the evolution of the wolf into the friendly dog.

1. Dogs do not only offer companionship and protection. They also offer well-being.

WELL Dogs offer well-being \_\_\_\_\_ companionship and protection.

2. People who don't own a dog have a higher probability of dying after a heart attack.

LIKELY People who own a dog \_\_\_\_\_ after a heart attack.

3. Juliane Kaminski studies dogs because, as a model, they are so interesting.

SUCH Juliane Kaminski studies dogs because they \_\_\_\_\_ model.

4. She thinks it's possible that dogs adapted to the human environment in specific ways.

MIGHT She thinks dogs \_\_\_\_\_ to the human environment in specific ways.

5. Thanks to humans, dogs have become animals that can cope with our environment.

TURNED Humans \_\_\_\_\_ animals that can cope with our environment.

6. Cats began to be domesticated around ten thousand years ago.

HAVE Cats \_\_\_\_\_ around ten thousand years.

## F Talk about it

*In pairs or groups.*

1. Which animal makes the best pet, in your opinion? Why?

2. Do you think it's right for people to have wild animals as pets? Why (not)?

3. Do you think dogs are more intelligent than other pets, like cats or horses? Why (not)?

4. Do you know of any instances in which pets or other animals have demonstrated their intelligence in a surprising way?

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## Answers: Best Friends Forever (B2)

### B – Listen and answer

1. F – It began in Asia. 2. T 3. T 4. F – She thinks their particular strength is in reading non-verbal communication, i.e. gestures. 5. F – She says raising a chimpanzee in a house doesn't make it a pet. 6. F – Eighty-five per cent of the dogs in the world are street dogs. 7. T 8. T

### C – Read and answer

1. Because we associate certain positive characteristics with them, like loyalty, protectiveness and affection. 2. There is genetic evidence for it. 3. The Centre carries out research into the special relationship between dogs and humans and how dogs understand humans and the world around them. 4. Because dogs have been living with us for a long time: roughly thirty thousand years. 5. They looked for friendliness, cooperation and the ability to understand our communication. 6. Because he knew more than one thousand objects by name. 7. Changes in their anatomy and physiology. 8. They can read human communication, attend to humans and establish eye contact with humans. 9. Because cats are territorial, so they can't be studied at a research centre. Researchers would have to go to people's homes to study cats. 10. Cats are less motivated to follow cues and less eager to interact, especially with a stranger.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. undergo 2. roughly 3. hang out 4. dined on 5. breed 6. cope with

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. as well as 2. are less likely to die 3. are such an interesting 4. might have adapted  
5. have turned dogs into 6. have been domesticated for