English 10c – study plan KW 17/18

Send your completed tasks by the 30th of April at the latest.

Alberto's new neighbours

Alberto took one look at his new neighbours and knew that his life was going to get more difficult. There they were, two of them, as big and as noisy as their car – and smelly and stupid as well.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Write down the best answer into your exercise book.

1. Your neighbours are
a. people who do the same job as you.
b. the people who live near you.
c. your uncles, aunts and cousins.

2. If you put up with someone or something,
a. you don't like it but you accept it.
b. you let someone stay at your house.
c. you start doing it.

3.If you get rid of something,
a. you break it.
b. you remove it.
c. you start to like it.

4. If you give someone a dirty look,
a. you look at them in a way to show you don't like them.
b. you look at them because they are not clean.
c. you look at them carefully.

5. If you have staff, you have
a. a big stick.
b. a lot of old things.
c. people who work for you.

6. If you are the owner of something,
a. it is your possession.
b. you are its possession.
c. you have to pay for it

7. A bark is the noise that
a. a cat makes.
b. a cow makes.
c. a dog makes.

8. A miaow is the noise that
a. a cat makes.
b. a cow makes.
c. a dog makes.

Alberto's new neighbours

Alberto took one look at his new neighbours and knew that his life was going to get more difficult. He watched them arrive in their big, noisy car and watched them get out. There they were, two of them, as big and as noisy as their car – and smelly and stupid as well.

'Terrible!' he thought. 'How am I going to put up with them?'

He went to tell Mimi. Mimi was the friend he lived with.

'Have you seen the new neighbours?' he asked her.

'No,' she said. 'Who are they?'

'Two of them. The ones we don't like. Big and noisy and stupid and smelly. Just like they always are.'

'Oh no,' said Mimi. 'How awful! Still, I suppose we can just ignore them.'

'I suppose you're right,' agreed Alberto. 'We' ll just have to ignore them.'

For a few days, then, Alberto and Mimi tried to ignore their new neighbours. When the neighbours went out for a walk, Alberto and Mimi didn't say hello to them. When the neighbours were in their garden, Alberto and Mimi went inside. This was OK for a few days, but, perhaps inevitably, things didn't stay this way ...One day, Alberto woke up from his sleep to find one of the neighbours in his garden.

'Mimi!' he shouted. 'Have you seen this!? He's in our garden!!!! Look!'

'How terrible,' said Mimi. 'Let's call our staff and make sure they get rid of him immediately!'

Mimi went off to call their staff. Two minutes later, Alberto and Mimi's head of staff was out in the garden trying to get rid of the unwelcome neighbour.

'Go on!' he shouted. 'Get out of here! Go home!'

The neighbour didn't say anything but gave Alberto and Mimi's head of staff a dirty look, then he went back into his garden. Alberto and Mimi felt better and then asked their head of staff to prepare their lunch for them. However, it wasn't enough. Over

the next few days, Alberto and Mimi often found one or other or both of their new neighbours walking around their own garden. It was terrible. To show how they felt, Alberto and Mimi went into their neighbours' garden at night, when the neighbours were inside, and broke all the flowers. The next morning one of the neighbours came to talk to Alberto.

‚Hey!' he said. 'Hey, you!' Alberto ignored him, but he continued talking. 'You came into our garden last night and broke all the flowers!'

Alberto didn't say anything but gave his neighbour a dirty look.

'Now I'm in trouble!' continued his neighbour. 'They think I did it!'

'Who are "they"?' asked Alberto.

'My owners, of course,' replied the neighbour.

'Owners!?' said Alberto.

'You have "owners"?'

'Course we do,' said his neighbour. 'Don't you?'

'Oh, no,' replied Alberto. 'We have staff.'

Alberto went to tell Mimi that the neighbours didn't have staff but owners.

'That's not a surprise,' said Mimi. 'That explains everything. That's why they're so noisy and smelly and stupid. We need to make their owners become staff.'

The next day, Alberto and Mimi were actually very friendly with their new neighbours. They tried to explain how to make their owners become 'staff'.

'Listen,' said Alberto to them. 'It's very easy. First, understand that the house is your house, not theirs.'

'And second,' said Mimi, 'make sure that you are always clean.'

'Make sure they give you food whenever you want!'

'Sit on the newspaper while they are reading it!'

'Sleep as much as possible – on their beds!'

'And finally, try not to bark but to miaow instead.'

But it was no good. The neighbours just didn't understand. After a week, they gave up.

'It's no good,' said Mimi. 'They'll never understand – dogs have owners, cats have staff.'

Chris Rose

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

1. Alberto is keen to meet the new neighbours at first.
2. After he met the new neighbours, Alberto's opinion of them changed.
3. Alberto and Mimi don't mind the neighbours visiting their garden.
4. Alberto is surprised to learn that his neighbours have owners.
5. Mimi already knew that the neighbours had owners instead of staff.
6. The neighbours are able to use the lesson that Alberto and Mimi teach them.

Task 2

Write the names of the characters to complete the sentences in your exercise book (full sentences).

1. ..... saw the new neighbours arrive in their car.
2. ..... suggests ignoring them.
3. The ..... walked into Alberto's garden.
4. ..... got rid of the neighbour from the garden.
5. ..... broke some flowers.
6. ..... gave his ..... a dirty look.
7. Alberto and Mimi have ..... .
8. The neighbours have ..... .

Discussion

What clues helped you realise who Alberto and Mimi and their neighbours were?