



# INTERNET CATS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1662-L6BS-8TM

## 1

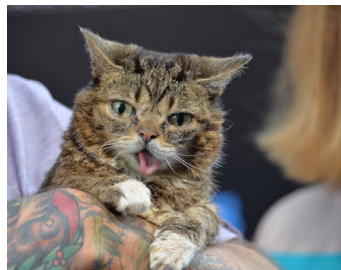
### Warm up

Discuss the questions.

1. Do you enjoy watching cat videos on the Internet?
2. Why do you think some people enjoy these videos?
3. What do you know about the three famous internet cats in the photos?



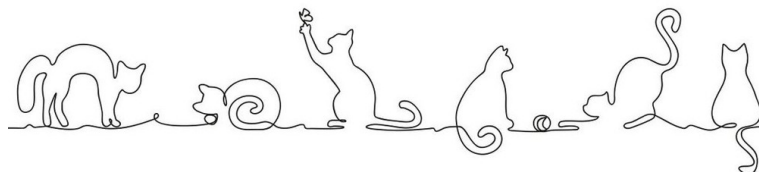
Grumpy Cat



Lil Bub



Bob the Street Cat





## 2

## Reading

Read this biography and try to understand the words in bold. Then match them with their meanings.

## Grumpy Cat

Grumpy Cat is one of most famous animals of the 21st century. She was born in Arizona in the US in 2012. Her owner, Tabitha Bundeson, first named her Tardar Sauce, because the kitten's original orange colour reminded her of a sauce at the fish restaurant where she was working. Grumpy Cat and her brother Pokey both had feline dwarfism, which gave them their unusual appearance. However, neither of them were really **grumpy** at all!

Grumpy quickly became an Internet **meme** after her owner's brother Bryan Bundeson posted a photo of her on the website Reddit when she was just a kitten. She was soon appearing regularly on TV shows like *Good Morning America*, and her pictures were used in books and calendars. Her 2013 book, *Grumpy Cat: A Grumpy Book*, made the *New York Times* **best-seller** list. In 2014 she starred in the film *Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever*. She also worked for the cat food brand Friskies. Grumpy was never in front of the cameras for long and her owners said, "We've never given her **drugs** to make her easier to handle."

In May 2019, Grumpy's owners announced that she had died of an **infection**. At the time of her death, she had 8.3 million followers on Facebook, 2.4 million on Instagram and 1.5 million on Twitter. Her owners said that Grumpy had changed their lives for the better, allowing them to spend more time together as a family. Grumpy's fans have missed her but at least they have some pictures to remember her by!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a book or other product that has sold millions of copies
2. \_\_\_\_\_ medicines that are sometimes taken to improve behaviour or relax
3. \_\_\_\_\_ complaining, easily annoyed, not really enjoying life
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a condition caused by viruses or bacteria entering the body
5. \_\_\_\_\_ an idea that spreads quickly on the Internet

What new information did you learn about Grumpy Cat?



Without looking at the biography, choose the correct form to complete each question. Then answer the questions.

What **did / had** Tabitha Bundeson first name Grumpy Cat?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Where **did / was** Tabita Bundeson working when Grumpy Cat was born?

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Why **were / did** Grumpy and Pokey have an unusual appearance?

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Who **posted / did post** a photo of Grumpy on Reddit?

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Soon after the Reddit post, where was Grumpy regularly **appeared / appearing**?

5. \_\_\_\_\_

How did her owners say that Grumpy cat **had / was** died?

6. \_\_\_\_\_

How did her owners say that Grumpy Cat **was changing / had changed** their lives?

7. \_\_\_\_\_

How **have / had** Grumpy Cat fans felt since her death?

8. \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Language point

Forming questions in English takes lots of practice. Look at the examples and answer the questions about four different verb forms.

#### Examples A

1. What **did** Tabita Bundeson first **name** Grumpy Cat?
2. Why **did** Grumpy and Pokey **have** an unusual appearance?
3. Who **posted** a photo of Grumpy on Reddit?

1. What tense are these questions? How do we use this tense?
2. What auxiliary verb is used to make questions 1 and 2?
3. Why is the last question different?

#### Examples B

- Where **was** Tabita Bundeson **working** when Grumpy Cat was born?
- Soon after the Reddit post, where **was** Grumpy regularly **appearing**?

1. What form are these questions? How do we use this form?
2. We don't add an auxiliary verb to make these questions. How do we make them?

#### Examples C

- How did her owners say that Grumpy cat **had died**?
- How did her owners say that Grumpy Cat **had changed** their lives?

1. Why are there two verbs in these sentences?
2. What is the name of the verb form in bold? How is it used?

#### Example D

- How **have** Grumpy Cat fans **felt** since her death?

1. What is the name of the verb form in bold? How is it used?
2. How do we make questions with this form?



4

Practice

Work in A/B pairs. Look at the correct page of the worksheet.

You can see two cat biographies. In the first one, some information is missing, and you have to make questions to ask your partner. You will use the information in the second one to answer your partner's questions.

Read the biographies with the glossary. Then prepare questions for your partner.

Student A: Lil Bub

Lil Bub was born in 2011, to a homeless mother who was living \_\_\_\_\_. Her owner, Mike Bridavsky, adopted her from \_\_\_\_\_. Like Grumpy Cat, she had feline dwarfism, and her tongue was always sticking out because she also \_\_\_\_\_.

Lil Bub became famous after her owner created a Tumblr blog about her. This led to posts of her photos on Reddit and these quickly went viral. She appeared in books and on various popular TV shows and films. Her 2013 movie, Lil Bub and Friends, which also featured Grumpy Cat, won a prize \_\_\_\_\_ at the Tribeca online festival. Lil Bub also had her own TV programme, Lil Bub's Big Show, where she even interviewed \_\_\_\_\_!

Sadly, Lil Bub died \_\_\_\_\_ in December 2019. At the time of her death, she had 2.3 million followers on Instagram, but more importantly, she and her owner had made \_\_\_\_\_ for animal charities. Announcing her death on Instagram, Bridavsky said, "Bub has spread a message of ... positivity ... to people all over the world." Bridavsky has created \_\_\_\_\_, Lil Bub: The Earth Years for fans who need more Lil Bub in their lives.

Glossary

- adopted: took a child or animal into your home to be part of your family
busking: performing music in the streets for money
charities: organisations that help animals, the elderly, the young the sick, etc
a drug addict: a person who cannot stop taking illegal drugs like heroine
led to: resulted in, caused something to happen
sticking out: easy to see because it comes past the edge or surface of something
treatment: the use of medicine, exercise, etc to help someone get better when they are ill
went viral: became very popular on the Internet

Questions

- 1. Where \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which prize \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who \_\_\_\_\_
6. How \_\_\_\_\_
7. At the time of her death, how much money \_\_\_\_\_
8. What \_\_\_\_\_

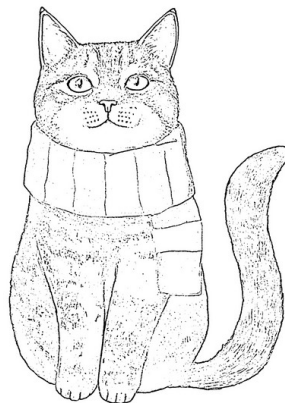


### Bob the Street Cat (for Student A)

No one knows anything about Bob's early life - his story started in the spring of 2007, when he met a man called James Bowen. Bowen had been a **drug addict** for many years and was performing music on the streets of London when he found Bob in the hall of his building. Bob needed medical care, so Bowen took him to the vet. When his **treatment** finished, Bob refused to leave Bowen and helped him recover from his addiction. After that, Bob rode on Bowen's shoulders when he was travelling on the bus to Covent Garden every day and sat by his side when he was **busking**. The unusual pair became famous - tourists came to see them perform, and people took videos of the pair and posted these on Youtube.

An article about Bob and Bowen appeared in the local paper and this **led to** the creation of the best-selling book *A Street Cat Named Bob*. Several more books for both children and adults followed, as well as two films in 2016 and 2020. In the films, Bob played himself; an actor played Bowen.

Sadly, Bob died in 2020 after a car hit him in the road. Bowen said that Bob had taught him that, "Everyone deserves a second chance, and no one is alone." Now there's a statue of Bob, wearing his usual striped scarf, in North London near where the pair lived. Lots of fans have left flowers by the statue. Since Bob's death, Bowen and his girlfriend have **adopted** two kittens.





You can see two cat biographies. In the first one, some information is missing, and you have to make questions to ask your partner. You will use the information in the second one to answer your partner's questions.

Read the biographies with the glossary. Then prepare questions for your partner.

**Student B: Bob the Street Cat**

No one knows anything about Bob's early life - his story started \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>, when he met a man called James Bowen. Bowen had been a **drug addict** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> and was performing music \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> when he found Bob \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>. Bob needed medical care, so Bowen took him to the vet. When his **treatment** finished, Bob refused to leave Bowen and helped him recover from his addiction. After that, Bob rode on Bowen's shoulders when he was travelling on the bus to Covent Garden every day and sat by his side when he was **busking**. The unusual pair became famous - tourists came to see them perform, and people took videos of the pair and posted these on Youtube.

An article about Bob and Bowen appeared in the local paper and this **led to** the creation of the best-selling book *A Street Cat Named Bob*. Several more books for both children and adults followed, as well as two films in 2016 and 2020. In the films, \_\_\_\_\_ played \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>; an actor played Bowen.

Sadly, Bob died in 2020 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>. Bowen said that Bob had taught him that, " \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> ." Now there's a statue of Bob, wearing his usual striped scarf, in North London near where the pair lived. Lots of fans have left flowers by the statue. Since Bob's death, Bowen and his girlfriend have **adopted** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>.

**Glossary**

- adopted: took a child or animal into your home to be part of your family
- busking: performing music in the streets for money
- charities: organisations that help animals, the elderly, the young the sick, etc
- a drug addict: a person who cannot stop taking illegal drugs like heroine
- led to: resulted in, caused something to happen
- sticking out: easy to see because it comes past the edge or surface of something
- treatment: the use of medicine, exercise, etc to help someone get better when they are ill
- went viral: became very popular on the Internet

**Questions**

1. When \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who \_\_\_\_\_
6. How \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Bowen say that \_\_\_\_\_
8. What \_\_\_\_\_



### Lil Bub (for Student B)

Lil Bub was born in 2011, to a homeless mother who was living on a farm in Indiana in the US. Her owner, Mike Bridavsky, **adopted** her from a friend, who had rescued the cat family. Like Grumpy Cat, she had feline dwarfism, and her tongue was always **sticking out** because she also had medical problems related to her bones, mouth and teeth.

Lil Bub became famous after her owner created a Tumblr blog about her. This **led to** posts of her photos on Reddit and these quickly **went viral**. She appeared in books and on various popular TV shows and films. Her 2013 movie, *Lil Bub and Friends*, which also featured Grumpy Cat, won a prize for the best feature film at the Tribeca online festival. Lil Bub also had her own TV programme, *Lil Bub's Big Show*, where she even interviewed Michelle Obama!

Sadly, Lil Bub died in her sleep from a bone infection in December 2019. At the time of her death, she had 2.3 million followers on Instagram, but more importantly, she and her owner had made \$700,000 for animal **charities**. Announcing her death on Instagram, Bridavsky said, "Bub has spread a message of ... positivity ... to people all over the world." Bridavsky has created one last book, *Lil Bub: The Earth Years* for fans who need more Lil Bub in their lives.

## 5

### Talking point

Answer these questions in pairs or small groups.

1. How are these three cats the same? How are they different?
2. Which of these three cats is your favourite and why?
3. Why do you think dogs aren't as popular as cats on the Internet?
4. Read this information and say if you agree and why.

Since we reached *peak cat* in the twenty-tens, a lot of things have changed on the Internet. Human celebrities have now taken the place of Grumpy Cat and Lil Bub, and it's the decade of the influencers, sharing fashion, hair and make-up advice, posting photos about what they're eating and documenting their journey to fitness, wellness and general "perfect-ness." The Internet cats were all about imperfection and reminded us of the importance of kindness and laughter. We're going to need these qualities in the future - but where will we find them?



## 6 Optional extension

Read the information in the box.

An ordinary cat, with no special appearance, is called a **moggy**. They can have any colour or length of fur. However, some people pay a lot of money to buy a **pedigree** cat, which comes from a named breed. All cats share the same body part names and the same basic behaviours.

Separate the vocabulary into four groups: cat fur patterns, cat breeds, cat body parts and cat behaviours.

- (1) claw
- (2) feed
- (3) groom
- (4) Maine Coon
- (5) muzzle
- (6) nap
- (7) paw
- (8) Ragdoll
- (9) scratch
- (10) Siamese
- (11) solid
- (12) Sphynx
- (13) tabby
- (14) tortoiseshell
- (15) tricolour/calico
- (16) whiskers

fur patterns	breeds	body parts	behaviours

1. Can you think of any other words to go in the four groups?
2. Which fur patterns and breeds are your favourites? Why?



# Key

## 1. Warm up

5 mins.

Students could discuss the questions in pairs before you conduct a brief roundup of answers from the class. Tell students they will learn more about all three animals during the lesson.

## 2. Reading

15 mins.

This stage has two parts. First students read a short biography of Grumpy Cat and define the vocabulary in bold. Check answers and pose the follow-up question to encourage students to compare the information they read with what they said they knew about Grumpy Cat in the Warm up.

Then go over the instructions for the second activity - students work without referring back to the text, choosing the correct form to complete the questions. This exercise requires that students discriminate between different forms as well as between correct and incorrect versions of one form. Students can check ideas in pairs and then try to answer as many of the questions as possible from memory. Check all answers with the class. The verb forms are the subject of the Language point in the next stage.

Sources:

<https://www.infoplease.com/people/who2-biography/grumpy-cat>

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/53217/16-fun-facts-about-grumpy-cat>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grumpy\\_Cat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grumpy_Cat)

Match the words with their meanings

1. best-seller      2. drugs      3. grumpy      4. infection      5. meme

Choose the correct option and answer

- Correct option: did / Answer: Tardar Sauce.
- Correct option: was / Answer: At a fish restaurant.
- Correct option: did / Answer: Because they had feline dwarfism.
- Correct option: posted/ Answer: The owner's brother, Bryan Bundeson.
- Correct option: appearing / Answer: On TV shows like *Good Morning America* and in books and calendars.
- Correct option: had/ Answer: Of an infection.
- Correct option: had changed / Answer: She allowed them to spend more time together as a family.
- Correct option: have / Answer: Fans have missed her.

## 3. Language point

10 mins.

This brief presentation activity reviews and compares past simple, past continuous, past perfect and present perfect question forms. Students require lots of practice in inserting auxiliary verbs to produce past simple questions (but not subject questions) and manipulating word order to produce continuous and perfect questions. It is assumed students have encountered these three forms before but require practice in formulating questions. Go over the examples and questions one by one, feeding in the information in the answers to supplement student responses.



## Examples A

1. Past simple, for completed actions or states at specific times in the past.
2. *did*
3. It does not use the auxiliary verb *did* because it is a subject question. In subject questions, *who* is the subject of the question and also refers to the subject of the answer.

## Examples B

1. Past continuous, for longer past actions, sometimes as a setting or background to the main events of a story.
2. The word order changes. Sentence word order is *subject + was/were + verb with -ing*, while question word order is *question word (if used) + was/were + subject + verb with -ing*.

## Examples C

1. We are reporting what someone said.
2. Past perfect, usually used to show that a past action occurred before another past action. Here, the form makes it clear that the true order of events was 1) Grumpy Cat changed her owners' lives, 2) Grumpy Cat died, 3) her owners announced her death/said something about her effect on their lives

## Examples D

1. Present perfect, to show an unfinished action that started in the past and continues now.
2. The word order changes. Sentence word order is *subject + have/has + past participle*, while question word order is *question word (if used) + have/has + subject + past participle*.

## 4. Practice

20 mins.

This is a jigsaw reading activity. Set up A/B roles and make sure students are looking at the correct part of the worksheet before you go over the instructions. Students should read the gapped biography first, using the glossary to help with items in bold. They then formulate questions to recover the missing information. They could do this in A+A/B+B pairs. Check answers for each group. You may want to drill both sets of questions with the whole class to reinforce the forms. Then ask students to read the other biography, using the same glossary to help. This will prepare them to answer their partner's questions.

Students recombine in A+B pairs and ask and answer questions to recover missing information from their text. They should make notes of the missing information. Encourage them to ask their partner to repeat or spell information they are not sure of, rather than just looking at their paper.

## Sources

<https://www.wired.com/story/lil-bub-cat-obit/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50638540>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/12/02/entertainment/lil-bub-cat-death-trnd/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-57855092>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Bowen\\_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Bowen_(author))

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8441657/Street-Cat-Named-Bob-died-hit-car-says-ex-heroin-addict-owner-ginger-tom.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lil\\_Bub](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lil_Bub)



## Student A

## Gapped biography

1. on a farm in Indiana in the US
2. a friend, who had rescued the cat family
3. had medical problems related to her bones, mouth and teeth.
4. for the best feature film
5. Michelle Obama
6. in her sleep from a bone infection
7. 700.000 dollars
8. one last book

## Questions

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. was Lil Bub's mother living (when she was born)? | 2. did her owner adopt Lil Bub from? |
| 3. was Lil Bub's tongue always sticking out?        | 4. did Lil Bub's movie win?          |
| 5. did Lil Bub interview on her TV show?            | 6. did Lil Bub die?                  |
| 7. had she and her owner made for animal charities? | 8. has Bridavsky created?            |

## Student B

## Gapped biography

1. in the spring of 2007
2. for many years
3. on the streets of London
4. in the hall of his building
5. Bob played himself
6. after a car hit him in the road
7. Everyone deserves a second chance, and no one is alone
8. two kittens

## Questions

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. did Bob's story start?      | 2. had James Bowen been a drug addict?    |
| 3. was Bowen performing music? | 4. did Bowen find Bob?                    |
| 5. played Bob in the films?    | 6. did Bob die?                           |
| 7. Bob had taught him?         | 8. have Bowen and his girlfriend adopted? |

## 5. Talking point

10+ mins.

Students have an opportunity to respond to the themes of the lesson. Encourage students to use vocabulary from the lesson, speak in full sentences and give reasons or examples for their ideas. Monitor and support as necessary and conclude the stage with some feedback and error correction, including pronunciation.

Extension: Use the Internet to find short trailers for the three cats' films. Ask students to say which film they'd most like to see, and why.

## Trailers

Grumpy Cat <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrSPuBYm-Cw>

Lil Bub <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkspnQEhIGo>

Bob <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai3hleBXRpo>



## 6. Optional extension

10 mins.

This activity is meant as a filler or cooler if you have time in your class. Go over the information in the box with students - elicit/explain that *fur* is animal hair and *breed* is a special type of cat. Then set the task for students to complete in pairs. Check answers, including pronunciation. Pose the follow-up questions.

Separate the vocabulary

*fur patterns*: (11) solid (one colour), (13) tabby (grey or orange striped), (14) tortoiseshell (black/brown and orange) and (15) tricolour/calico (black/brown, orange and white).

*breeds*: (4) Maine Coon (big and hairy), (8) Ragdoll (easy to handle), (10) Siamese (light coloured with darker face, paws and tail) and (12) Sphynx (hairless).

*body parts*: (1) claw (cat fingernails), (5) muzzle (nose and mouth), (7) paw (foot) and (16) whiskers.

*behaviours*: (2) feed (eat), (3) groom (clean themselves), (6) nap (sleep) and (9) scratch (use their claws when they are angry or frightened).