

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



COCO THE CAT

What a Terrible Present!

Gérard Moncomble
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Illustrations
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before reading

- 1** The title of the story is *What a Terrible Present!* **Circle** the celebrations when people (or animals) get presents.

On Christmas Day

On your birthday

When you get a good mark
in an exam

Every weekend

On Wednesdays

On January 6th from
the Three Wise Men

When you lose a tooth

At the beginning of
an English class

- 2** *Terrible* means the same as *very bad*, *horrible* and *awful*. **Write** the title again in the box and use 3 or 4 adjectives to **describe** the present. **Use** different types of handwriting to show how terrible the present is! **Draw** a picture of a really terrible present.



- 3 Coco's birthday happens once a year. **Circle** the other celebrations that happen once a year, and **write** two more celebrations that are not included in the list. **Practise** saying the dates correctly: October *thirtieth*, February *fourteenth*, etc.

Celebrations	
Halloween (October 30 th)	Weekends with grandparents
Thanksgiving (the 4 th Thursday in November)	Valentine's Day (February 14 th)
Holidays (There isn't any school!)	When sports teams win a game
Friday afternoons with my friends	St. Patrick's Day (March 17 th)
_____	_____

- 4 **Look** at the birthday present list. **Circle** in green the presents you would like to receive. Then **write** the names of the other presents in order in the columns: bad, worse, the worst!

Birthday Presents	Bad	Worse	The worst!
Socks			
Pyjamas			
Underwear			
A book about dragons			
A book about sport			
A book about romance			

- 5** **Ask** your parents if you can bring a present to class. **Work** in groups and write a short description of each present. **Stick** the description on the presents and give them to another group to read.

Which of the presents is a terrible present? **Draw** it and **say** why you don't like it.



- 6** Coco's three boy cat friends are talking about Coco and her birthday present. **Circle** the idea you like best.

Jack Sardine:

Today is Coco's birthday! I bought an expensive present for her! It is a...

new smart phone

new computer

Tommy the Flea:

That is a very expensive present, Jack. My present is a cheap present because I don't have a lot of money:

a tin of tuna fish

a plastic mouse

Benny the Bin:

I decided to make Coco a present. I think these presents are the best! I drew a beautiful picture of...

Coco with all her cat friends

Coco with Susan and her parents

Chapter 1: The cat flap

- 1** Coco is in a very bad mood on her birthday. Everything is a problem for her! **Put** a tick in the correct column.

	Problem	Not a Problem
Everyone is shouting, "Happy Birthday Coco!"		
Coco was sleeping and the family woke her up.		
Coco didn't like the toy she got for her last birthday.		
The plastic blue hole in the door is her new present.		

- 2** In Chapter 1, Susan and her parents really like their surprise present for Coco. What do you think Susan, Mum and Dad say about the present? **Write** one of the ideas on each line. **Add** your own idea.

Ideas
Today is your birthday, Coco! We have an incredible present for you! A new door!
We want to celebrate your birthday, Coco! Look at your fantastic present! A new door!
Look at this incredible invention, Coco! You push it and SWING! You enter the house!
Your idea: _____

Susan: _____

Mum: _____

Dad: _____

- 3** A cat flap is a special door for animals to go in and out of a house. Coco doesn't like her cat flap. She thinks it's a terrible present, because she thinks she is too special to use it.

Design a special cat flap for Coco. Maybe she will like it!



- 4** **Look** at the sentences in the table. What happens first? What happens next?

Use the sequence words to put the sentences in the correct order. Remember: *After that*, *Next*, and *Then* mean the same.

after that next then finally first

Sequence word	
	When you want to go out, you push and SWING.
	The family shouts "Happy Birthday Coco."
	Coco says, "What a stupid invention!"
	When you want to come in, you push and SWING.
	The family goes with Coco to see the present.

5

On page 8 Coco doesn't look very happy. She doesn't like her present. She isn't grateful for all her family's hard work. What would you say to Coco? **Complete** one of the options and **write** your own idea.

Dear Coco,

For your birthday, your family gave you a special present... a cat flap. You don't like this present. Coco! That's a really bad attitude to have!

- When people have thought carefully about the *purrfect* present to give you, you should...

- When people have taken their time to choose a special present for you, you should...

- Your idea: _____

I hope that you'll think about your bad behaviour and say sorry to Susan and her parents. They love you!

A hug,

6

Listen to Chapter 1 on the CD while you read your book. Push *Pause* after every sentence. **Repeat** what you hear. Try to copy the pronunciation of the words exactly. Have fun!

Can you **repeat** these sentences and sound like a furious cat on her birthday?

Is this my present?

A hole in the door?

Chapter 2: The *purrfect* plan

- 1** Dad is furious. **Put** Susan's part of the conversation in the correct order. **Practise** the conversation with your partner.

Dad	Susan
Susan! Your cat is very disrespectful!	<input type="checkbox"/> First, I'm going to talk to Coco and explain why her reaction wasn't acceptable.
How are you going to teach Coco to be more respectful?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I think she will listen. Coco is intelligent. I think she will say she is sorry.
Talk to her? Do you think she will listen to you?	<input type="checkbox"/> You are right, dad. Coco is disrespectful.

- 2** Coco doesn't change her attitude. Dad is still furious! **Answer** the questions below using these sentences:

Yes, he does / No, he doesn't

Yes, she does / No, she doesn't

- Does Dad say that if Coco doesn't use the cat flap, then she can't go outside?

- Does Mum say that she will punish Coco with no TV or video games for a week?

- Does Susan put Coco's biscuits outside?

- Does dad put the box where Coco "does her business" outside?

- 3 On page 14, Coco finally jumps through the cat flap. She says she has the *purrfect* plan. Imagine that you are Coco and you don't want to use the cat flap. What can you do about it? **Circle** the ideas that you think are good. **Invent** more ideas and **tell** your classmates about them.

I could...

- Find another place to live with a normal door.
- Ask someone to come and close the cat flap shut forever!
- Wait next to the door until someone opened it and run inside.
- Explain that I don't feel important if I have to use this door.

Your ideas:

- _____
- _____

- 4 On page 15, Coco asks her friends to come into the house through the cat flap. She says that "Dad loves dirty, smelly alley cats!" Does Dad really love dirty, smelly alley cats? Why does Coco say this?

Sometimes people say things but they mean the opposite. They change the tone of their voice to show what they are really thinking. **Read** the sentences below out loud with your partner. **Use** your voice, facial expressions, and actions to show that you really mean the opposite. **Write** two more examples.

- I really LOVE that present!
- Fish is my FAVOURITE food!
- Your new jumper is REALLY NICE!
- We really LOVED the film that you took us to see at the cinema!
- Your new haircut looks just... GREAT!

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



5 On page 19, the house is a complete mess! Coco is so happy that she says, “Bravo my friends!” Her *purrfect* plan was to show Mum, Dad and Susan that the cat flap wasn’t a good idea! What do you think of Coco’s attitude? **Choose** one of the opinions and **say** why you agree with it.

- She has a fantastic attitude. She is winning the cat flap war.
- She has a terrible attitude. She doesn’t respect what her family wants.

What should Mum and Dad do? **Choose** one of the opinions below and **write** two sentences to say why you agree with it.

- They should have a serious talk with Coco about being respectful.
- They should give Coco away to another family that is strict and can teach her how to be respectful.
- They should tell Coco that she has to respect their house rules or find another family to live with.

6 **Listen** to Chapter 2 on the CD while you read your book. Push *Pause* after every sentence. **Repeat** what you hear. Try to copy the pronunciation of the words exactly. Have fun!

Can you **repeat** this part of the sentence and sound like an intelligent cat with a *purrfect* plan?

Maybe the cat flap isn’t just for me! Ha! I’ve got the purrfect plan!

Chapter 3: Oh dear, it's broken!

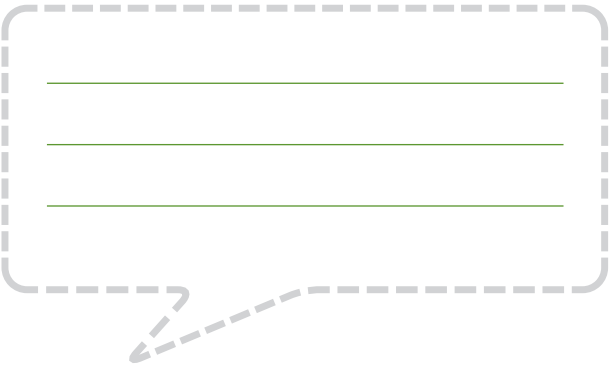
1 On page 23, Coco is trying to make Bob the dog angry. Why is she doing this? **Put** the the words in order to make sentences.

wants / Because /the dog /she / to go / her / to / house.

will / The dog/ crash / cat flap. / into / the

The /cat flap /break. /will

2 On page 24, Bob is chasing Coco. Coco escapes by going into the house through the cat flap, but Bob crashes into it because he is too big to go through it. It is obvious that Coco will find this situation very funny. **Draw** Coco and **invent** what she says to Bob.



3

On page 27, Susan, Mum and Dad are looking at the broken cat flap. They aren't very happy. **Put** Mum's part of the conversation in the correct order (1, 2, 3).

Susan	Mum
This is NOT COOL! The cat flap is broken. That dog crashed into it and broke it.	<input type="checkbox"/> Your dad can't talk right now, Susan. He is very upset with Coco. We have to teach Coco how to be more respectful! We can't go on like this!
We tried to give Coco a nice surprise for her birthday, but she didn't like our present.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Susan, it's completely broken. Coco is a very naughty, disrespectful cat.
Dad, can you fix it?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, Coco didn't like our present. She thinks she is too important to use a cat flap.

4

On page 28, Coco says, "What a shame, the stupid cat flap is in tatters." This means the same as "What a pity, the stupid cat flap is broken". We can't see Coco's face. Does she have an *I'm sorry* look on her face? Or does she have an *I'm the winner* look on her face? What do you think? Why?

Draw the expression on Coco's face. **Draw** the expression you'd have on your face if Coco were your cat.

- 5 On page 29, Coco goes into the house through the door... “like a real cat. Just the way it should be!” **Look** at the characters’ expressions in the picture. **Answer** the questions using the words below.

confused surprised confident happy
unhappy angry bored

How does Coco feel? She feels _____

How does Susan feel? _____

How does Mum feel? _____

How does Dad feel? _____

- 6 **Listen** to Chapter 3 on the CD while you read your book. Push *Pause* after every sentence. **Repeat** what you hear. Try to copy the pronunciation of the words exactly. Have fun!

Can you **repeat** these sentences and sound like an intelligent cat with a plan to destroy the cat flap?

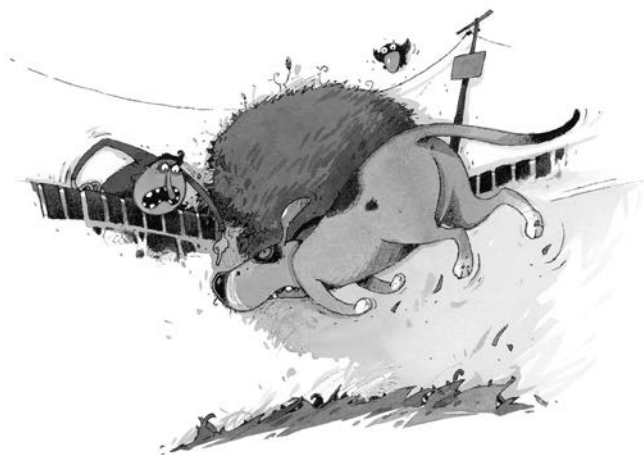
Here, stupid dog! Here, stupid dog! Gotcha!

Can you **repeat** this sentence and sound like the angry neighbour shouting at his dog?

Bob, come here at once!

Can you **repeat** this question and sound like poor Susan?

Can you fix it, Dad?



after reading

- 1 The next day Coco is talking to her friends Jack Sardine, Tommy the Flea and Benny the Bin. **Read** the conversation in groups of four.
Talk in cat voices.

Coco: Hello everybody! Thanks everyone for coming to my house yesterday and helping me to make a mess.

Jack: It was fun, but I don't feel good about it.

Tommy: No, I don't feel good about it either.

Benny: I've been thinking... it wasn't a good idea. It was a very rude thing to do.

Coco: But I needed your help to win the war against the cat flap! You are my friends!

Jack: Good friends help to make good decisions.

Tommy: Yes, good friends don't break things.

Benny: Good friends tell you when you are not thinking properly.

3 Cats: But we didn't say anything to you yesterday. We're sorry, Coco!

Coco: Sorry? About yesterday at my house?

3 Cats: Yes. And you should talk to Susan's family and say you are sorry. It's the right thing to do....

- 2 **Draw** a picture with Coco saying "I'm sorry" to Susan and her family.



3

Coco decides to work around the house so she can make some money and buy a new cat flap. What can she do to help the family?

Suggest some jobs Coco could do.

- Jobs in the bedroom: _____

- Jobs in the kitchen: _____

- Jobs in the bathroom: _____

- Jobs in the living room: _____

- Jobs in the garage: _____

Choose a job from each room. **Say** how often Coco has to do these jobs.

once a day twice a day three times a day once a week
twice a week every morning every afternoon
every night at the weekend

Example: Coco could wash the dishes every night after dinner. _____

- 4 Coco gets permission to have a cat flap party. She invites all her street cat friends and decides to invite Bob the dog too. Susan's parents let all the cats try out the new cat flap, but the party isn't inside the house, it's outside. **Draw** everyone at the party. **Write** What Coco could say during the party.



- 5 All the cats and Bob the dog had a fantastic time at the cat flap party. So they decided to write a thank-you card to Susan and her parents. **Complete** the thank you note.

Dear Susan, Mum and Dad,

The cat flap party yesterday was such fun! Our favourite game was when Dad chased us around the garden. The food was incredible! Mouse whisker pizza, _____ cookies, _____, ice cream, and colourful sweets in the shape of _____.

Thank you for inviting us. We will try to be more respectful in the future!

A big hug,
