



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Talking and Thinking

Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. **Cocker Spaniel, Bulldog, Scottish Terrier** – these are the names of different breeds of dogs. Write a list of as many names of breeds of dogs as you can.
2. If you had a dog, would you enter it in a dog show? Why or why not?
3. Imagine that you are entering your dog in an international dog show and that you are willing to do **anything** to win. You do not like the judge. Develop a plan to get rid of the judge! (Your plan must be believable. You do not want to be blamed for getting rid of the judge, so think of something that no one will connect with you.) After you have developed your plan, you will be asked to share it with the rest of your class.



B: Whispering Campaign

Your teacher will whisper something to one student. That student then has to whisper exactly what they heard to the next person until everyone has had a turn. The final person then repeats out loud what they heard.

Reading Activities

A: Understanding the Main Idea

Read through the article once as fast as possible and write down one sentence in your own words that states the main idea of the article. Now check your idea with at least two other people. Do you need to alter your sentence? If so, why?

Dark Whisperings Shake Dog Show Circuit BY PETE HARRISON

LONDON Wed February 4 (Reuters) - Something sinister is troubling Britain's usually genteel world of dog-showing, and at the center of it all lies one question: Who called Mrs Joyce Mann a "puppy farmer?"

Hate mail is circulating, threats have been made over the phone, Mann -- the country's top show judge -- has resigned and The Kennel Club says it has never seen anything like it.

"It is quite a nasty business," said a club spokeswoman. "Someone has set out to blacken Joyce's name at the pinnacle of her career."

And all this with the premier date on the dog show calendar fast approaching: Crufts, the world's largest dog show and the quintessence of British canine culture starts on March 4.

Joyce Mann, this year's Crufts Best of Show judge and wife of its chairman Peter, had been targeted by a fax campaign to highlight her mass breeding of Yorkshire Terriers in the 1960s -- puppy farming -- a practice common at the time, but now considered unethical.

"This has all the ingredients of a **Miss Marple** mystery," said Beverley Cuddy of "Dogs Today" magazine. "Dog showing is still very much a gentle middle-class pursuit, but it does have this other side.

"When people get obsessed, only winning counts, and the dog becomes irrelevant," she added.

"There have been poisonings over the years, and last year there was even a whispering campaign against Crufts winner Danny the Pekinese -- did he, or did he not, have a face lift?"

she said. Danny was eventually cleared.

At first it appeared Joyce Mann might weather the smear campaign.

She released a statement last month saying she wanted to put the record straight: "In the late 1960s and early 1970s, I bred a considerable number of litters."

But, noted the British show breeders periodical "Dog World": "the gossip refused to die down, and at Manchester and the Pedigree Stakes finals, the Manns were the main topic of conversation."

It was all too much. Last week, Mrs Mann tendered her resignation, citing "stress and anguish as a result of scurrilous anonymous accusations, which have resulted in my receiving medical attention."

Her husband Peter followed, resigning from his post as Crufts chairman, a gesture of solidarity the Kennel Club accepted with "deep regret."

But teacups are still rattling. Who, after all, was responsible for this outrage? Dogs Today's Cuddy deduces the culprit might be a competitor who feared facing Joyce Mann in the show ring this year.

Whatever the truth, she said, dogdom will always remain a rich source of intrigue.

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Glossary: *Miss Marple* - a fictional amateur detective, created by crime writer, Agatha Christie, in a series of novels. Miss Marple solves various crimes

B: Who Or What?

Use the article to complete the table of information.

Name	Who	Relevance To The Article
Joyce Mann		target of hate mail campaign who has now resigned as Crufts judge
Crufts		where Mann was to judge; rumors and scandal are very common at this event
Peter Mann	Joyce Mann's husband and chairman of Crufts	
		thinks this is like a mystery story; dog showing can have a 'dark side'
		the target of 'face lift' rumors but was eventually cleared

C: Vocabulary

Read through the article again. Find the words below in the article and work out which words and / or phrases could be associated with **rumor** and which words could be associated with **crime**. Put each word or phrase after one of the headings. Use a dictionary if necessary. *Smear campaign, circulate, culprit, intrigue, accusations, whisperings, sinister, threats, scurrilous, blacken a person's name, anonymous, deduce, targeted, mystery, poisonings, eventually cleared, put the record straight, gossip, refused to die down.*

Vocabulary associated with Rumor:

Vocabulary associated with Crime:

Vocabulary associated with both Rumor and Crime:

D: Comprehension

- Below is an imaginary text in which Joyce Mann is being interviewed by Beverley Cuddy of the magazine, Dogs Today. Imagine that you are Joyce Mann. Answer the questions that Beverley Cuddy asks. Your answers must only come from the article. Do not add any information of your own to your answers.

A Personal Interview with Joyce Mann

Interviewer: Mrs Mann, what was the category you were going to judge at Crufts?

Joyce Mann: a. _____

Interviewer: Where would you say you were at in terms of your career as a show judge before the smear campaign began?

Joyce Mann: b. _____

Interviewer: What exactly was the accusation made against you and how true is it?

Joyce Mann: c. _____

Interviewer: How was this smear campaign conducted against you?

Joyce Mann: d. _____

Interviewer: Do you have any idea who and why such a person would have done this to you?

Joyce Mann: e. _____

Interviewer: Has anything like this happened before at Crufts?

Joyce Mann: f. _____

Interviewer: Finally, what was your husband's association with Crufts and how supportive has he been over what has happened?

Joyce Mann: g. _____

Interviewer: Thank you for your time, Mrs Mann. All the best for your future.

- Now compare your answers in pairs. Then practice reading through the interview together in pairs. Then swap roles.



Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Read And Retell

Read all the instructions below before you begin this activity:

1. Read the article again. Then put it away and tell the information to your partner. Your partner must have a watch to time you. Your partner must not interrupt. Make sure you cover all the main points in the article.
2. At the end, your partner will tell you if you have forgotten anything.
3. Then swap roles and listen to your partner.
4. Next, tell the information from the article to a new partner, and then to another partner. Each time you retell the information, try to decrease the amount of time you take.

B: The Media And Gossip

1. Work in pairs. Your teacher will give you some magazines and / or newspapers or will tell you to look on the Internet. With your partner, find examples of gossip: e.g. about celebrities / film stars or about politics / politicians. Cut or print out the articles and discuss the effects that the gossip might have on the celebrity or politician.

or

2. Work in small groups and discuss the latest scandal or gossip that you have heard about either politicians or entertainers.

Answer these questions:

- a. What rumors have you heard recently about a famous person? Are they based on fact?
- b. How can these rumors be verified?
- c. What effects do such rumors have on the person's reputation, job and family?

C: Quotations

Choose **two** of the following quotations and for each quotation write an essay explaining to what extent you agree or disagree with the quotation.

Today's gossip is tomorrow's headline. (Walter Winchell)

Gossip is charming! History is merely gossip. But scandal is gossip made tedious by morality. (Oscar Wilde)

Gossip isn't scandal and it's not merely malicious. It's chatter about the human race by lovers of the same. (Phyllis McGinley)

The Sage of Toronto ... spent several decades marveling at the numerous freedoms created by a global village instantly and effortlessly accessible to all. Villages, unlike towns, have always been ruled by conformism, isolation, petty surveillance, boredom and repetitive malicious gossip about the same families. Which is a precise enough description of the global spectacle's present vulgarity. (Guy Debord)

Public opinion contains all kinds of falsity and truth, but it takes a great man to find the truth in it. (Georg WF Hegel)

Some people will believe anything if it is whispered to them. (Pierre de Miramax)



D: Language

Read the text and use the word in brackets () to form a word which will fit in the gap.

Mixed-Breed 'Doodle' Dogs Are All the Rage

BY JILL OESTREICHER GROSS

WASHINGTON Thu Jan 22 (Reuters) - Move over chocolate lab, the labradoodle has 1. _____ (**arrival**). Why walk a corgi when you can have a dorgi?

Mutts or 2. _____ (**mix**)-breed dogs, once the domain of U.S. animal shelters, are being sought by an increasing number of Americans looking for special pooches. Intentionally bred and 3. _____ (**cute**) named, today's special-order mixes have newfound status -- and a purebred 4. _____ (**price**) tag.

"When there were a bunch of them around and a lot of them were in the shelter, you'd 5. _____ (**call**) them mutts," said Stephen Zawistowski, science advisor at the American Society for the Prevention of 6. _____ (**cruel**) to Animals, about the popular mixes that used to 7. _____ (**accident**) appear.

Sought-after mixes, some of which can fetch up to \$4,000, are the labradoodle, a 8. _____ (**cross**) between the Labrador and the poodle and the schnoodle, a schnauzer-poodle mix.

Even Britain's Queen Elizabeth is in on the mixing trend. She has 9. _____ (**breeder**) several dorgis -- dachshund/corgi mixes.

The bagel, a mix between a basset hound and a beagle, is 10. _____ (**typical**) found in shelters.

"Right now, there is a stronger 11. _____



(**interesting**) in crosses than in registered breeds," said breeder Jennifer Connell of Breezy Hill Kennel in Hartsburg, Missouri.

'Doodle' dogs' 12. _____ (**popular**) stems from the combination of the poodle's non-shedding, allergy-friendly coat with the 13. _____ (**intelligent**), temperament and size of Labradors, golden retrievers, schnauzers and Yorkshire terriers.

Labradoodles, the most 14. _____ (**popular**) mix, can cost between \$895 and \$2,195, depending on coat and color.

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TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Talking and Thinking - Notes

If students cannot list different dog breeds, get them to discuss their favorite dog and explain why it is their favorite. For example, their favorite dog could be a pet or a cartoon dog, or a dog on a TV advertisement. Students could also discuss what sort of categories a dog show might have and what sort of physical characteristics a dog might need to have in order to win.

With question 3, have all your students share their plans and then have the class judge which plan might work.

Alternative for question 3: After students have discussed their plans in pairs, have them sit with other pairs and take turns in presenting plans to each other. The pair listening can ask questions and point out any problems with the plans. This process could happen a number of times with different pairs.

B: A Whispering Campaign - Notes

This is the same as a popular children's game. Have students sit in a circle. One person whispers something to the person sitting on their left who then whispers it to the person sitting on their left. The process is repeated until everyone in the circle has heard the message. The last person in the circle then says the message to the whole circle. The person who started the whisper then says the message (that they initially whispered) to everyone. The message has usually been distorted and often does not make sense by the end of the circle. You may like to play this two or three times. If your class is very big, you can have more than one circle.

The reason that you start the whisper is to ensure that the whisper is not about another person in the class. Whisper at least 2 or 3 sentences so that it is harder for the person to remember what was said. The sentences whispered could be a piece of news about your school, city or something that happened to you in the last few days. It is important that it is a piece of news (i.e. gossip) but shouldn't be about anyone in the class in case a student decides to distort the text and make it a personal attack on someone in the class!

Reading Activities

A: Understanding the Main Idea - Answer

The main idea of the article is that Britain's top dog show judge has had to resign because of anonymous accusations made about her that related to how she bred dogs in the 1960s.

B: Who Or What? - Answers

Name / Who / Relevance To The Article

Joyce Mann / Britain's top dog show judge / target of hate mail campaign who has now resigned as Crufts judge

Crufts / the world's largest dog show / where Mann was to judge; rumors and scandal are very common at this event

Peter Mann / Joyce Mann's husband and chairman of Crufts / resigned to show his solidarity with Mann

Beverley Cuddy / works for magazine "Dog World" / thinks this is like a mystery story; dog showing can have a 'dark side'

Danny / a Pekingese, 2003 Crufts winner / the target of 'face lift' rumors but was eventually cleared

C: Vocabulary - Notes

Students are working with words and phrases unfamiliar to them. They find them in the article and then decide how to categorize them. They can look at them quickly in the context of the article and may also refer to their dictionaries. Students might disagree with the answers below, and provided they can give good examples of why an answer could be different, be prepared to accept alternatives.

C: Vocabulary - Suggested Answers

Vocabulary Associated With Rumor: smear campaign*, circulate, whisperings, scurrilous, blacken a person's name*, anonymous, put the record straight, gossip, refused to die down.

Vocabulary Associated With Crime: culprit, intrigue, sinister, threats, deduce, targeted, mystery, poisonings, eventually cleared.

Vocabulary associated with both Rumor and Crime: accusations.

*In some countries this is known as 'slander' and is a crime.

D: Comprehension - Notes

1. Students must only use information that is in the article.

2. Students could practice in pairs and then record their interviews.

D: Comprehension - Sample Answers

a. I was going to be the judge for the Crufts Best of Show.

b. I am Britain's top dog show judge. Being the judge for Crufts Best of Show represents the fact that I'm at the pinnacle of my career.

c. I was accused of being a puppy farmer. The accusation was that I mass bred Yorkshire Terriers in the 1960s which is now considered unethical. This accusation is untrue and I want to put the record straight. All I did do was to breed a large number of Yorkshire Terriers in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

d. I received hate mail. There were also phone threats. The smear campaign was mainly conducted by fax.

e. The accusations were made anonymously and I can only think that perhaps it might have been done by a competitor who feared facing me as a judge in the show ring this year.

f. I do remember that last year there were rumors about whether Crufts winner, Danny the Pekinese, had had a face lift or not. In the end he was eventually cleared. But those were rumors about a dog, not a judge.

g. He was the chairman of Crufts and he has been so supportive. When I resigned, he too resigned from his post as chairman.

Post-Reading Activities

A: Read And Retell - Notes

It is really important for the listeners to listen only and not interrupt at all.

B: The Media And Gossip - Notes

Newspapers/Magazines required for First Question.

1. Hand out magazines or newspapers for students to find examples of gossip or scandal. Ask students to discuss their articles in small groups explaining the reasons why they cut them out and the effects of such scandal on the person being discussed in the media. The Internet will also be a good source of print articles with gossip.

2. If you do not have printed media available or access to the Internet, then discuss the latest scandal in entertainment news or in political circles.

C: Quotations - Notes

Depending on the ability of your students, they could choose one or two quotations to discuss and argue either for or against, based on their own experience and ideas. The quote by Guy Debord is an excellent one in terms of discussing how rumor and gossip can be spread over the Internet and its accessibility to all. There is also the case of rumors being spread about high school students on the Internet by other high school students.

Set a word limit suitable for the level of your students. Most should be able to write an essay of at least 350 words.

D: Language - Answers

1. arrived, 2. mixed, 3. cutely, 4. price, 5. call, 6. cruelty, 7. accidentally, 8. cross, 9. bred, 10. typically, 11. interest, 12. popularity, 13. intelligence, 14. popular.

Extra Resources

More information about Crufts the World's Largest Dog Show can be found at <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/index.asp?section=crufts/cruftsframe.html>. You can find out who the replacement judge for Best of Show category is - try the **news/updates** section.

There is an enormous amount of information about this world famous dog show as well as the winners for 2004.

Another fun site about dogs for the average dog lover is <http://www.dogster.com>.

Please Note: Your students may also enjoy the related **Intermediate Instant Lesson "Top Dog May Be Cheat"** about Danny (mentioned in today's article). This lesson also has an Instant Workbook.

