



My uncle Desmond lives in Ireland. He owns a cottage in the country. He hasn't got a wife. He hasn't got a pet. He lives on his own. I'm his only relative.

Desmond writes me a letter every week. Why does he write a lot of letters? It's because he feels quite lonely. I like him very much. He is my favourite uncle.

I think about a Christmas present. What does he need? He needs someone to talk to and keep his company. A dog perhaps? Or a cat?



I go to a pet shop. They sell rabbits, hamsters and even snakes. There is a parrot in a cage. It's blue, green and red. It says: "Good morning, my friend!" Now a shop assistant comes. She also says: "Good morning!"



The bird says: "Bye-bye!" We smile. Then I say: "What a beautiful present for my uncle." I ask: "Has this parrot a large vocabulary?" The shop-assistant answers: "Oh yes, it has. It knows about a hundred words."



I ask: "What about four-letter words?" "No problem at all. This parrot only speaks decent words." I buy the parrot. I also buy the cage. It's rather expensive.



Then I send the parrot to Ireland. I phone Desmond some days after Christmas Day. I ask about the parrot: "How did you like the bird?" He replies: "I had it on Christmas Eve. It was absolutely delicious."



**to own:** have  
**to live on one's own:** alone  
**cottage:** small country house  
**in the country:** not in a town  
**husband:** a woman's man  
**quite:** fairly  
**present:** gift  
**keep company:** be together  
**perhaps:** maybe  
**pet shop:** where you can buy animals  
**parrot:** large bird  
**cage:** where the parrot lives  
**decent:** fair  
**delicious:** lovely

**Do we eat it? Underline the things people like to eat:**

cottages - bananas - horseshoes - parrots - pets - chicken - apples - rabbits - hamsters - dogs - postcards - aunts - husbands - tomatoes - bread - eggs - sausages - hamburgers - letters - stones - bikes - streets - islands - palm trees - swimming pools - grapes - candy - hot dogs - lions - toothbrushes - sailing boats - lunches - supper - keys - doors - teachers - books - fish - frogs

**about:**  
 1) about a hundred words: more or less hundred words  
 2) What about a parrot?: Why not a parrot?  
**four-letter word:**  
 indecent word