

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

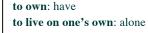
yes, it has. It knows about a hundred words."



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."



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