

The campaign to clean up dog poo

Today's theme is about dog poo. I mean, there is nothing worse than stepping on some freshly deposited dog poo, is there? Call it what you like; dog fouling, shit, poop, waste or dog crap, it is very annoying when you put your foot in it. Oh, shite...! Why don't the owners pick it up and put it in a dog bin? Yes, some people do. They scrape it up using a plastic glove and plastic bag then pop it into a doggie bin. Others walk their dogs, let their dogs crap on the grass then casually walk away as if nothing has happened, leaving the dog faeces to harden. When challenged the owners simply deny it was their dog that did it. Later some small child might run on the grass. They could pick up a disease from it. This makes some people's blood boil, to the point where they decide to take action against the dog owners. Some might leave a note on a spike in the dog poo. Others like Louise Willows recently got so fed up with dog mess in Crouch End, London that she decided to do something about it. She removed the dog mess then left a drawing of a cup cake in a yellow cup in chalk. She also wrote 'Dog owners please clear up your mess children walk here'. Ironically, she is facing charges for doing this and she had to wash the chalk off!

So what do the authorities do? Around the world this varies but dog poo is dog poo, whatever country you are in. In East Memphis, Tennessee, USA, recently a woman was arrested in a park by two police officers after refusing to clean up her dogs' poo. In New York pooch owners face a US\$250 fine for leaving their little gifts on the street. In Paris, they now have dog scooper patrols. Until 2001, the city was known as 'the dog poo capital of the world'. It then did something about it. In Toulouse, France they use 'sat nav' to target dog mess! Council staff use hand held computers to photograph it then send its position to the cleaners to clean up. In Hernani, Spain, the town has launched a 'canine' DNA dog database to track the culprits who allow their dogs to mess on the streets and parks without clearing it up. Dog owners there face €300 fines for dog fouling. Back in London, in 2009 Islington Council introduced a 'Poover'. This spraying, sucking machine sits on the top of a modified 125cc motor bike. It sprays, loosens, sucks then cleans the poo up. Nice!

Category: Environment / Dogs / Dog mess

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. **Dog poo:** Think of as many words you know that have the same meaning as dog poo. Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. **Let's think! Dog poo:** In pairs, think of five alternative ways to say dog poo. Then add five inventive ways how to pick it up. Then add five ways you would let other people know they should pick their dog's poo up! Write them below. Discuss together.

Other ways to say dog poo	Inventive ways how to pick up dog poo	Ways of letting other people know they should pick 'it' up
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. **Let's think! Favourite dogs:** Think of your top ten dogs. Write them in ascending order below. Discuss together. Which your favourite dog and why?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

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8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Dog poo**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's roleplay 1: Dog FM:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Dog FM* radio studio in Los Angeles. Today's interview is about *cleaning up dog poo*.

1	Dog owner	3	A dog poo clean up crusader
2	A police officer	4	A council officer

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

10. **Let's roleplay 2: A pub:** In pairs/groups. You are in a pub. The subject of dog and dog poo comes up. Discuss together. *5 minutes*

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) What was Paris known as?
- 2) What did Islington council introduce and when?
- 3) What happened in Spain?
- 4) What happened in Toulouse?
- 5) Who is facing charges and why?

Student B

- 1) What area of London does Louise Willows come from?
- 2) What did Louise Willows do?
- 3) What happens in New York?
- 4) What happened in East Memphis?
- 5) What could a small child pick up?

12. **Let's think!** Think of three things that make *your* blood boil. Write them below. Discuss together with your partner.

Three things that make <i>your</i> blood boil!
1
2
3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: *Cleaning up dog poo*. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

14. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Dog poo _____
- b) Louise Willows _____
- c) When I walk my dog _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of the Spanish way of using a dog's DNA to solve who deposited it? Explain.
- 3) Do you have a dog? If yes, where do you walk it? How do you solve 'the issue'?
- 4) Have you ever challenged any dog owner for not picking up its dog's poo? If yes, what happened?
- 5) What do you think of Louise Willows' actions?
- 6) Should the authorities do more to stop dog owners allowing their dogs to foul everywhere?
- 7) Think of three suggestions you would give the authorities to help them solve the dog poo issue.
- 8) Has Paris solved its dog poo issue? Explain.
- 9) When was the last time you trod on some dog poo? What were your immediate comments!
- 10) Have you ever picked up some dog poo and put it in a dog poo bin?

Student B questions

- 1) What diseases can you catch from dog poo?
- 2) How do they pick up dog poo in your town/city?
- 3) How strict are the authorities in your town/city for dog poo deposits?
- 4) What do you think about what Islington Council did?
- 5) Is using 'sat nav' to pin point the dog poo in Toulouse, France a good idea? Explain.
- 6) Were the police officers right in Tennessee to arrest the woman?
- 7) What city would you say is 'the dog poo capital of the world' today?
- 8) Would you help pay for Louise Willows' costs if she was made to pay for her actions of chalking cup cakes on the ground where owners let their dog's poo and did not pick it up? Explain.
- 9) Do you know any other stories about 'dog poo crusaders', like Louise Willows, trying to solve the problem of dog poo mess?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Dog poo

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

20 annoying things about dog poo etc...
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The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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dog

spike

casually

action

challenged

glove

disease

deny

So what do the authorities do? Around the world this (1)_____ but dog poo is dog poo, whatever country you are in. In East Memphis, Tennessee, USA, (2)_____ a woman was (3)_____ in a park by two police officers after refusing to clean up her dogs' poo. In New York pooch owners face a US\$250 fine for leaving their little (4)_____ on the street. In Paris, they now have dog scooper patrols. Until 2001, the city was known as 'the dog poo capital of the world'. It then did something about it. In Toulouse, France they use 'sat nav' to target dog mess! Council (5)_____ use hand held computers to photograph it then send its position to the cleaners to clean up. In Hernani, Spain, the town has launched a 'canine' DNA dog database to track the (6)_____ who allow their dogs to (7)_____ on the streets and parks without clearing it up. Dog owners there face €300 (8)_____ for dog fouling.

recently

culprits

gifts

arrested

mess

fines

varies

staff

GAP FILL: LISTENING - edited

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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So what do the authorities do? _____ varies but dog poo is dog poo, whatever country you are in. In East Memphis, Tennessee, USA, recently a woman was arrested in a park by _____ after refusing to clean up her dogs' poo. In New York pooch owners face a US\$250 fine for leaving _____ on the street. In Paris, they now have dog scooper patrols. Until 2001, the city was known as 'the dog poo _____'. It then did something about it. In Toulouse, France they use 'sat nav' _____! Council staff use hand held computers to photograph it then send its position to the cleaners to clean up. In Hernani, Spain, the town has launched a 'canine' DNA dog database to track the culprits who allow their dogs to mess on the streets and parks _____ up. Dog owners there face €300 fines for dog fouling.

GRAMMAR: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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Today's theme is about dog poo. I mean, there is nothing worse (1)___ stepping on (2)___ freshly deposited dog poo, is there? Call it what you like; dog fouling, shit, poop, waste or dog crap, it is very annoying (3)___ you put your foot in it. Oh, shite...! Why don't the owners pick it up and put it in a dog bin? Yes, some people do. They scrape it up using a plastic glove and plastic bag then pop it into a doggie bin. Others walk their dogs, let (4)___ dogs crap on the grass (5)___ casually walk away as if nothing has happened, leaving the dog faeces to harden. When challenged the owners simply deny it was their dog that did it. Later some small child might run on the grass. They (6)___ pick up a disease from it. This makes some people's blood boil, to the point (7)___ they decide to take action against the dog owners. Some (8)___ leave a note on a spike in the dog poo.

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where

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	scooper	11	sucking
2	challenged	12	modified
3	something	13	machine
4	glove	14	varies
5	casually	15	database
6	worse	16	authorities
7	deny	17	police
8	patrols	18	photograph
9	Tennessee	19	culprits
10	ironically	20	spraying

LINKS

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2011/apr/11/crackdown-on-dog-mess>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1374710/Woman-told-faces-arrest-picking-dog-mess-replacing-cupcakes.html>

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/apr/03/woman-charged-assault-after-scuffle-police-over-do/>

<http://www.everydayfrance.com/2007/07/02/paris-the-dog-poop-capital-of-the-world/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/8086332/French-officials-to-use-sat-nav-to-track-dog-mess.html>

ANSWERS: edited:

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