

Buster the Loyal Dog

One day, Buster's owners, Lucy and Dan, arrived home with a small bundle. Buster was excited to see them and bounced over to greet them.

"Down, Buster!" said Dan.

"Away!" said Lucy.

Buster was confused. Usually, they were so pleased to see him and would ruffle his head and rub his belly.

"In your bed," said Dan.

What have I done wrong? thought Buster. His tail stopped wagging. With his head down, he went over to his bed.

Inside of the bundle that Lucy was carrying, was a tiny baby girl. She was wrapped up in a yellow blanket. The family of three had become a family of four.

Over the next few weeks, Buster spent most of his time watching Lucy and Dan fuss over the baby. No one had time to play with him. He soon realised that he was in second place. He could see how much Lucy and Dan loved the baby. That meant he loved her too.

Whenever the baby was in her cot or in the pram, Buster would sit next to her and protect her. Whenever anyone came to visit, he would growl at them as they tried to peer down at the baby. "It's OK, Buster," Lucy or Dan would say and then he'd stop.

One day, Dan took Buster for a walk and the baby came along in her pram. Buster stayed right next to the pram the whole way. When they got to the park, Dan started to throw Buster's favourite ball. Buster was having a great time. On his last throw, Dan threw the ball so far that it got lost in the bushes. It took Buster ages to find it. When he eventually came out,



he couldn't see Dan, but he ran straight back to the pram.

A woman came over and Buster growled. The baby inside started to cry. The woman reached into the pram and Buster snapped. She backed off and the baby continued to cry. She tried to push the pram away so Buster barked even louder, fiercely protecting the baby.

"Who owns this dog?" cried the woman as Buster grabbed her boot in his teeth.

Just then Dan came running over, shouting Buster's name.

Thank goodness, thought Buster. This woman is trying to take our baby.

When Dan finally reached the pram, he gave Buster a firm tap on the nose.

"Wrong baby, Buster!" he snapped.

Dan pointed over to a pram at the other side of the park. Buster recognised the yellow blanket hanging over the edge.

Buster sheepishly sat by Dan's side while he apologised to the woman. Buster then followed Dan back to the right pram with his tail between his legs.

"This is our baby," said Dan. "Don't do that again, you silly mutt."



Questions

03

1 Which statement is true? (tick)

- ☐ Lucy and Dan were pleased to see Buster.
- ☐ Buster couldn't understand why Lucy and Dan weren't excited to see him.
- ☐ Buster stayed in his bed and ignored Lucy and Dan.
- ☐ Buster was afraid of the small bundle.

2 What command did Lucy give to the dog?

3 How do we know that Buster's mood changed? (tick)

- ☐ He went over to his bed.
- ☐ He wondered what he'd done wrong.
- ☐ He bounced over to greet Lucy and Dan.
- ☐ His tail stopped wagging and he put his head down.

4 Why did Buster feel like he was in second place? (tick)

- ☐ Dan and Lucy gave more of their attention to the baby.
- ☐ Buster could not move out of his place.
- ☐ Dan and Lucy moved Buster.
- ☐ Buster could never win against the baby in a race.

5 Which word in the third paragraph could be replaced with the word look?

6 Who took Buster for a walk? (tick)

- ☐ Dan
☐ Lucy
☐ The baby
☐ The neighbour

7 Where did Dan throw the ball on his last throw? (tick)

- ☐ into the pond
☐ over the road
☐ into the playground
☐ into the bushes

8 Why did Buster bark at the woman and bite her boot? (tick)

- ☐ He didn't like her.
☐ Dan told him to.
☐ Buster wanted her to throw his ball.
☐ He thought that she was trying to steal the baby.

9 Buster barked at the woman and bit her boot. Which adjective best describes how the woman might have felt? (tick)

- ☐ annoyed
☐ excited
☐ panicked
☐ fierce

10 'Buster sheepishly sat by Dan's side.'

Which adjective best describes how Buster would have felt at this moment? (tick)

- ☐ pleased
☐ embarrassed
☐ relieved
☐ sad

Score:



Answers

A

- 1 Which statement is true? ☒ Buster couldn't understand why Lucy and Dan weren't excited to see him.
- 2 What command did Lucy give to the dog? Away
- 3 How do we know that Buster's mood changed? ☒ His tail stopped wagging and he put his head down.
- 4 Why did Buster feel like he was in second place? ☒ Dan and Lucy gave more of their attention to the baby.
- 5 Which word in the third paragraph could be replaced with the word look? peer
- 6 Who took Buster for a walk? ☒ Dan
- 7 Where did Dan throw the ball on his last throw? ☒ into the bushes
- 8 Why did Buster bark at the woman and bite her boot? ☒ He thought that she was trying to steal the baby.
- 9 Buster barked at the woman and bit her boot. Which adjective best describes how the woman might have felt? ☒ panicked
- 10 'Buster sheepishly sat by Dan's side.' ☒ embarrassed

Which adjective best describes how Buster would have felt at this moment?