

Mr and Mrs Tufty have some visitors

November 30, 2020 20h30 - 21h30

Copy this link into a browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557612942> to join the Zoom meeting.

The pronunciation challenge

The pronunciation challenge has been recorded and posted to the English Champions web site:

<https://englishchampions.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pronunciation-challenge.mp4>

Vocabulary

Queen of puddings: a pudding made of moist breadcrumbs and custard mixture topped with jam and meringue.

Wellington boots (UK): long rubber boots which you wear to keep your feet dry.

Practical joke: a mischievous trick played on someone, generally causing the victim to experience

embarrassment, confusion, or discomfort.

Cheesy grin: Excited or big smile put on when being photographed.

Chilly: uncomfortably or unpleasantly cold.

Blood-curdling (adjective): causing or expressing terror or horror.

A happy afternoon

Mr and Mrs Tufty ate lunch at 1 p.m. Helen, Mr and Mrs Tufty's housekeeper, had cooked a delicious steak and kidney pie with new potatoes followed by 'Queen of Puddings'. They began to feel a lot happier after a difficult morning. They were both excited at the prospect of meeting their granddaughter for the first time.

At precisely 2 o'clock the door bell rang. Mr Tufty felt his heart leap with excitement as he went to answer the door. Because of the latest restrictions put in place to try and combat the COVID epidemic, the Tuftys had planned to meet Earl-Lea and Henrietta on the drive in front of their house. Officially they were not allowed to invite Henrietta and Earl-Lea in.

Mr and Mrs Tufty put on their coats and Wellington boots and then stepped outside. Helen had also found an excuse to be doing something outside as well. Earl-Lea and Henrietta were busy adjusting baby seats, and seat belts in their estate car, parked about fifty feet from the Tuftys front door.

Finally Earl-Lea picked up a little bundle wrapped in a soft pink blanket. The excitement mounted and Earl-Lea walked towards Mrs Tufty and asked her if she would like to hold the baby.

"Of course!" she replied.

A second later Mrs Tufty let out a blood-curdling scream. Mr Tufty rushed over and they both looked shocked and stared at the small body in Mrs Tufty's arms. The poor creature's face was covered in hair, its ears seemed to have been positioned in the wrong place and its tongue kept licking its own nose as well as the blanket.

"Surprise! A little present for you and Mr Tufty. Meet Teignmouth! We found him at the animal shelter." said Earl-Lea with a cheesy grin on his face.

The Tuftys were both surprised and delighted. Teignmouth was an adorable little corgi puppy, just a couple of months old. He started to wriggle and Mrs Tufty placed him carefully on the ground. Apparently there were many interesting things to sniff and explore within a few feet of where they were standing as Teignmouth immediately started a thorough investigation of the area.

Henrietta finally walked over carrying another pink blanket.

“Sorry, mum, Earl-Lea insisted on playing a practical joke. I told him that you would probably have a heart attack! I hope you like our little gift.”

Henrietta then looked at Thandie and said, “Thandie I would like you to meet some very important people. My mummy and daddy, Granny and Grandpa.”

She carefully passed Thandie to Mr Tufty.

Both dotting grandparents looked adoringly at Thandie and started to make the sort of ridiculous sounds that people make when they meet a baby for the first time. Helen joined them and smiled broadly as she looked at the sleeping child.

The family chatted happily for half an hour and then Henrietta said that she thought they should go home as it was starting to feel a little chilly.

The Risers returned to their car and Mr Tufty, Mrs Tufty and Helen went back into the house followed by an extremely excited little corgi...



Figure 1: Teignmouth

Questions for discussion

1. Should people buy animals as presents?
2. Should Earl-Lea have played the practical joke on Mrs Tufty?
3. Do you think the restrictions have gone too far when a family cannot even welcome their first grandchild in their own home?
4. What important family occasions have you missed as a result of the COVID restrictions?
5. Compare looking after a young puppy with looking after a young baby.

Dates des cours

	septembre	octobre	novembre (on-line)
Intermédiaire / avancé lundi 20h30 - 21h30	21, 28	5, 12	2, 9, 16, 23, 30

We hope to see you next term! Have a very happy Christmas!