

Because this is the language which is spoken all over the world. If you speak English you can keep in contact with the friends you met during the summer; you are able to use a computer; you can understand the texts of your favourite songs and read the English article about the Take That. In other words, you feel a citizen of the world. Welcome.

Try me!

A PET IS GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

A pet is an animal kept by a person in the home as a companion and it is specially loved and favoured. When possible, we allow our pet to sleep on our bed or to try our delicacies; we accept its naughty behaviour and we tolerate its moods.

«Mum, can I have a dog, please?» But often mums do not seem to believe in the sense of responsibility their children declare to possess and after a long and strenuous fight, they end up accepting just a goldfish as a new tenant. It's a kind of compromise which works as a test: if in a couple of months you haven't got tired of changing its water daily, you may have a chance of owning a dog in the future.

But what are the most common pets we look for?

If you enter a pet shop, apart from the traditional dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, tortoises, fish and mice, you will encounter monkeys, or snakes and lizards of different sizes, which are much in fashion. Not to mention the wild animals that are imported illegally and destined to live an existence of absurd and cruel captivity.

Anyway, one thing is sure: nobody would ever dream

of eating their pet. The thought makes us feel sick. But in some places in the world this can happen.

Before moving on to another continent, where the local culture differs very much from ours, let's consider, for instance, a person who owns a racehorse and who loves their horse as a dear friend, a big



pet. Could that person ever bring himself or herself to eat horse meat? I know some people who could, and some people who'd hate the idea.

Well, in New Guinea, especially in the mountains, pigs are raised by the women of the village with the same care as they use in bringing up their children. If the sow dies, they manage to suckle the piglets. The women, the children and the pigs all sleep together in a hut and they remain out in the fields, where the women work and the children play with the pigs. In case of illnesses, pigs are cured in the best way that can be afforded.

Pigs are so cuddled and well cared for that they have altered their behaviour and now they act like dogs: they bend down their heads sadly when reproached and they rub against their owners' legs to reconquer affection and caresses and to be stroked again.

Nevertheless, once they've grown adult, their owners will not hesitate to eat them. Cruelty? They think it normal.

Cows follow the same destiny in East Africa, in Sudan or in North Kenya. Here, the men instead of the women, treat and cure calves with great affection: they feed them, wash and adorn them with

ribbons and wooden beads or small bells. They build cabins to protect their cows from wild animals and mosquitos, they sleep together, but when the cow dies, they also eat it.

And in China you can buy dog meat at the market, though certainly many people consider dogs as common pets.

So, as you can see, there are different ways of sharing life with a pet; they are related to the history, the geography, in a word, to the culture of a nation.

We must take all this into account: of course, it doesn't necessarily mean we have to agree, we simply can't ignore the variety of habits and practices which belong to others.

Those who are affected with indignation and disgust but yet refuse to try to understand, waste a lot of time and effort. But, above all, they are easy prey to racism.

For some of us a pet can be good enough to eat, but for all of us a pet is good.

Antonella Ferri



ONE OF US

It was 1950. The old Cardinal of Naples did not know what to think. He had already seen a thing or two, but this! A young priest was sitting before him in his office. He was asking permission to be allowed to become a drop-out. He wanted to live on the streets of Naples with the alley-boys.

The old man could not take it in. He knew what the position was in Naples: two hundred thousand out of work. And all the young boys were hanging round the streets because their parents were without work and could not feed them. They lived by stealing, peddling stolen goods, black marketeering, and begging. They slept in some corner or other. They were like wild cats and dodged the police. This young priest, Mario Borelli, wanted to help them, give them a roof over their heads, bread, and a bit of human warmth.

That the cardinal could understand. But why must the priest become a drop-out himself?

Mario knew exactly why: «If I go to these boys as a priest they will spit in my face. They are fearfully distrustful.»

The cardinal considered. «Give me ten days to think it over.»

After ten days the plan was approved.

Mario went on the streets, an old cap back to front on his head, in ragged clothes, a cigarette end in the corner of his mouth. He begged, collected cigarette butts and became a vagrant.

Gradually he won the hearts of these youngsters. Soon he was even the leader of a gang. When he found a primitive shelter his youths went with him. They weren't able to do otherwise - they were drawn to him. This Mario had something irresistible about him. They had no word for it because it was something they had never before experienced. How could they know that the word was love?

Perhaps we can now better understand why God became man. He wanted to be one of us to save us. 'God with us': that is Jesus.

(Pierre Lefèvre
One hundred stories to change your life)



LET'S GO TO AMERICA

In this word square are hidden the names of 15 American towns. The words can be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally, in both directions.

A	B	O	S	T	O	N	I	S	E	A	T	T	L	E
R	D	R	A	Y	A	T	L	A	N	T	A	L	O	R
S	E	O	N	L	K	T	U	X	O	N	F	A	R	N
A	T	M	J	O	L	T	I	P	O	M	O	N	A	O
G	R	O	I	A	L	A	S	V	G	E	S	T	T	
E	O	E	S	A	N	P	A	S	A	D	E	N	A	S
V	I	I	E	E	D	O	N	C	N	O	R	O	T	U
S	T	N	S	A	N	D	I	E	G	O	S	I	C	O
A	N	C	O	L	I	H	E	U	R	E	K	A	E	H
L	I	O	R	A	C	I	A	N	S	A	L	L	A	D

KEY: Boston, Oakland, Seattle, Chicago, Las Vegas, Pasadena, San Diego, Atlanta, Houston, Fresno, Dallas, Reno, Detroit, Tuxon, San Jose.

WHICH WORD IS LEFT?

TEST YOURSELF and see which level you can reach. Every right answer, mark 1. Yes, you can use the dictionary: it depends on how curious you are, of course.

IRISH	CAMEL	ALE	CLUB	PANTS
TIE				
SOCKS	GOOSE	FOOT	COLLECTION	
LEAGUE	MIST		GARDENING	TEMPLATE
PORCH	DUTCH	BACON	IVORY	
GALE	KEVIN		DRAINPIPE	
SETSQUARE	STEPHEN		COOKIE	
STAMP-COLLECTING	OCHRE		FRUIT JUICE	

KEY The word is ENVELOPE. The words that are to be crossed: 1 camel, 2 pudding, 3 foot, 4 Kevin, 5 gardening, 6 Irish, 7 socks, 8 ochre, 9 ivory, 10 porch, 11 gale, 12 ale, 13 club, 14 pants, 15 monarch, 16 leader.

OPPOSITES

Complete the crossword by finding a word which is opposite in meaning to each given word.

- Across:**
 1 easy 5 darkness 6 monologue 9 war 10 full
- Down:**
 2 strong 3 hot 4 death 7 short 8 unguarded

KEY-Across: 1 difficult, 5 light, 6 dialogue, 9 peace, 10 empty
Down: 2 fragile, 3 cold, 4 life, 7 long, 8 guarded

All the words in the square must be paired: one word will be left.

CLUES

- 2 animals
- 2 things you eat
- 2 measures of length
- 2 first names
- 2 hobbies
- 2 nationalities
- 2 things you wear
- 2 colours
- 2 mathematical instruments
- 2 parts of the house
- 2 words connected with weather
- 2 drinks
- 2 collective nouns
- 2 American words
- 2 words connected with politics