

## KEEPING PETS IS FUN

1 Read Part I of the text *Wilbur* and answer the question: How did Fern get her new pet?

## Wilbur

(from *Charlotte's Web*<sup>1</sup> after E. B. White)

## Part I

“Where’s Papa going with that ax<sup>2</sup>?” said Fern to

Charlotte [ˈʃɑ:lət], Mrs Arable [ˈærbəl], Fern [fɜ:n], Avery [ˈevəri], Wilbur [ˈwɪlbə]

her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

“Out to the hoghouse<sup>3</sup>,” said Mrs Arable. “Some pigs were born last night.”

“I don’t see why he needs an ax,” continued Fern, who was only eight.

“Well,” said her mother, “one of the pigs is very small and weak<sup>4</sup> and it will not live long. So your father has decided to do away with it<sup>5</sup>.”

“Do away with it?” cried Fern. “You mean kill it? Just because it’s smaller than the others?”

Mrs Arable put a plate on the table. “Don’t cry, Fern!” she said. “Your father is right. The pig will die soon.”

Fern pushed a chair and ran outdoors. The grass was wet and the earth smelled of springtime. Fern caught up with her father.

“Please don’t kill it!” she sobbed<sup>6</sup>. “It’s unfair<sup>7</sup>.”

<sup>1</sup> Charlotte’s [ˈʃɑ:ləts] Web — Паутина Шарлотты

<sup>2</sup> ax [æks] — топор

<sup>3</sup> hoghouse — свинарник

<sup>4</sup> weak [wi:k] — слабый

<sup>5</sup> to do away with — избавиться от...; покончить с...

<sup>6</sup> to sob — рыдать, всхлипывать

<sup>7</sup> unfair [ʌnˈfeə] — несправедливый



Mr Arable stopped walking. “Fern,” he said gently, “you must learn to control yourself.”

“Control myself?” cried Fern. “This is a matter of life and death<sup>1</sup> and you talk about controlling myself.”

Tears ran down her cheeks. And she took hold of the ax and tried to pull it out of her father’s hand.

“Fern,” said Mr Arable. “I know more about raising<sup>2</sup> pigs than you do. A weak pig makes trouble<sup>3</sup>. Now run along!”

<sup>1</sup> a matter of life and death [deθ] — дело жизни и смерти

<sup>2</sup> to raise — выращивать

<sup>3</sup> trouble [ˈtrʌbl] — беспокойство, волнение

“But it’s unfair,” cried Fern. “If I had been very small at birth, would you have killed me?”<sup>1</sup>”

Mr Arable smiled. “Certainly not,” he said, looking down at his daughter with love. “But this is different. A little girl is one thing, a little weak pig is another.”

“I don’t think this is different,” said Fern. “It is unfair.”

A strange look came over John Arable’s face. He was ready to cry himself.

“All right,” he said. “You go back to the house and I will bring the pig when I come in. I’ll let you start it on a bottle, like a baby. Then you’ll see what trouble a pig can be.”

When Mr Arable returned to the house half an hour later, he carried a box under his arm. Fern was upstairs in her room. The kitchen table was set for breakfast, and the room smelled of coffee, bacon and jam.

“Put it on her chair!” said Mrs Arable. Mr Arable put the box on Fern’s chair. Then he washed his hands and dried them on the towel.

Fern came slowly down the stairs<sup>2</sup>. Her eyes were red from crying. As she came up to her chair, she heard a noise from the box. Fern looked at her father. Then she opened the box. There, inside, looking up at her, was the newborn<sup>3</sup> pig. It was a white one.

“He’s yours,” said Mr Arable. “But I know I’ve done a silly thing.”

Fern could not take her eyes off<sup>4</sup> the little pig. “Oh,” she whispered. “Oh, look at him! He’s absolutely perfect.”

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<sup>1</sup> If I had been very small at birth, would you have killed me? — если бы я родилась маленькой, ты бы меня убил?

<sup>2</sup> down the stairs [steəz] — вниз по лестнице

<sup>3</sup> newborn ['nju:ɔ:bɔ:n] — новорожденный

<sup>4</sup> couldn’t take her eyes off ... — не могла оторвать взгляда от ...

She closed the box carefully. First she kissed her father, then she kissed her mother. Then she opened the box again, lifted the pig out, and held it against her cheek.

At this moment her brother Avery came into the room. Avery was ten. "What's that?" he asked. "What's Fern got?"

"She's got a guest for breakfast," said Mrs Arable. "Wash your hands and face, Avery!"

"Let's see it!" said Avery. "You call that thing a pig? That's a *fine* pig — it's no bigger than a white rat."

"Wash up and eat your breakfast, Avery!" said his Mother. "The school bus will be along in half an hour."

"Can I have a pig, too, Pop?" asked Avery.

"No, I only give pigs to early risers<sup>1</sup>," said Mr Arable. "Fern was up at daylight. That's why she now has a pig. A small one, but a pig. It just shows what can happen if a person gets out of bed quickly. Let's eat."

But Fern could not eat. First, she wanted to give her pig a drink of milk. Mrs Arable found a baby's bottle. She poured some milk into the bottle and handed it to Fern. "Give him his breakfast!" she said.

A minute later Fern sat on the floor in the kitchen with her little pig in hands, teaching it to drink from the bottle. The pig was very little, but it had a good appetite and caught on quickly. The school bus appeared on the road.

"Run!" commanded Mrs Arable, taking the pig from Fern.

Avery and Fern ran out to the road and climbed into the bus. Fern sat and looked out of the window, thinking

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<sup>1</sup> early riser ['raɪzə] — тот, кто рано встает

what a happy world it was and how lucky she was to have a pig and to take care of it. She also thought what name she could give to her pig. She wanted to choose the most beautiful name she could think of.

“Its name is Wilbur,” she whispered to herself.

She was still thinking about the pig when the teacher said, “Fern, what is the capital of Pennsylvania?”

“Wilbur,” said Fern dreamily<sup>1</sup>. The pupils laughed. Fern blushed<sup>2</sup>.

## Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Choose and read the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 Fern's father wanted to do away with the newborn pig because:
  - he did not need many pigs on his farm.
  - it made too much noise.
  - it was very little and weak.
- 2 Fern told her father to give her the pig because:
  - she loved animals.
  - she thought it was unfair to kill the little pig.
  - the pig looked nice and the girl thought it was fun to have a pig as a pet.
- 3 Fern sat in the bus which took the children to school, thinking:
  - what a happy world it was and how lucky she was to have a pig and to take care of it.
  - how difficult it was to take care of the little and weak pig.
  - what food her new pet could eat.

<sup>1</sup> dreamily ['dri:mili] — мечтательно

<sup>2</sup> to blush [blʌʃ] — покраснеть

- 4 At the lesson, the children laughed because:
- Fern began to tell them about her pet and how funny it was.
  - Fern did not listen to what the teacher was asking her and gave a funny answer.
  - the teacher was telling the children a funny story.

3 *Find in the story and read the sentences which prove that:*

- Fern thought it was terrible and unfair to kill a newborn pig;
- Fern was angry with her father;
- Fern was very happy when her father decided to leave the little pig alive;
- Father understood Fern's feelings;
- Fern thought about her new pet all the time.

4 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What was Fern's father going to do with one of the pigs that were born on his farm?
- 2 What made Fern so angry with her father?
- 3 What did Fern do to save the little pig?
- 4 How did Fern's father explain why he was going to kill the pig?
- 5 Was Fern happy when her father allowed her to take care of the pig?
- 6 How did Fern feed her new pet?
- 7 What name did Fern decide to give to the pig?

**How Good Is Your English? (see pp 40 –41)** ● ● ● ●

### **What Do You Think?**

- 5 *Why do you think Fern's father agreed to give her the newborn little pig so that she could take care of it?*





## How Good Is Your English?



6 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 If an animal is born very small and .....  
....., it will not live long.
- 2 It is really ..... when  
you feel you can't help.
- 3 Some pets are ..... and  
people do not know how to keep them.
- 4 Do you think it is .....  
to kill animals that are weak?
- 5 You may think you are .....  
to get a strong and beautiful animal as a pet.

lucky
weak
strange
terrible
unfair

7 Match the words which are opposite in meaning.

fair	weak
usual	cry
strong	unfair
fine	disappear
laugh	terrible
appear	strange
day	night

8 How did they do it? Use the proper word.

- 1 The girl closed the box with the new born pig  
very .....
- 2 Fern was crying, and her father tried to  
speak to her .....
- 3 The pig had a good appetite and drank milk  
from the bottle very .....
- 4 Fern was thinking about the pig even at the  
lesson and said the pig's name .....
- 5 The girl came ..... down the  
stairs and suddenly saw a box on her chair.

dreamily
carefully
slowly
quickly
gently

9 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 At this moment the girl's brother came ..... the room.
- 2 Fern's eyes were red ..... crying.
- 3 The school bus appeared ..... the road.
- 4 She thought she was lucky to have a pet and to take care ..... it.
- 5 The girl thought what name she could give ..... her new pet.
- 6 The girl sat on the floor in the kitchen ..... her little pig in hands.

with  
on  
from  
into  
to  
of

10 a) Fill in *Past Indefinite* and *Present Perfect* for each of the verbs.

	Past Indefinite	Present Perfect
to eat	ate	have/has eaten
to decide		
to put		
to take		
to be		
to show		
to choose		

b) *Past Indefinite? Present Perfect? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 "I think I (chose, have chosen) a good name for my pet," the girl said.
- 2 ("Did you show, Have you shown) your pet to your brother yet?" Mother asked the girl.
- 3 The girl put the box on the chair, and then (took, has taken) the animal out of it.
- 4 When the parents saw how sad the girl was, they (decided, have decided) to leave the pig to their daughter.
- 5 The girl (was, has been) very happy when she was thinking about her new pet.



**11** Read Part II of the text *Wilbur* and answer the question: How long did Wilbur stay on the farm?

### **Wilbur**

(from *Charlotte's Web* after E. B. White)

#### Part II

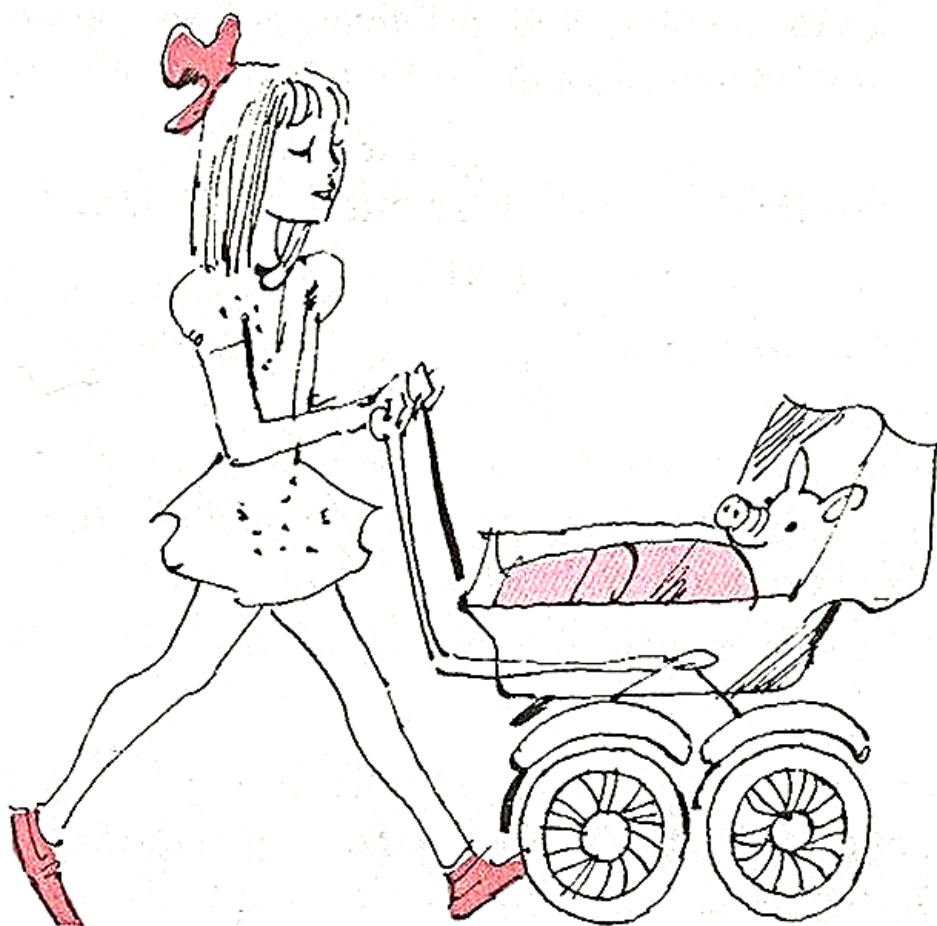
Fern loved Wilbur more than anything. She loved to stroke him, to feed him, to put him to bed. Every morning, as soon as she got up, she warmed his milk, and gave the bottle to him. Every afternoon, when the school bus stopped near her house, she jumped out and ran to the kitchen to give another bottle to him. She fed him again at suppertime, and again just before going to bed. Wilbur loved his milk, and he was never happier than when Fern was warming up a bottle for him. He stood and looked at her with happy eyes.

During the first days of his life Wilbur lived in a box in the kitchen. Then, when he grew up, Mrs Arable moved his box outdoors. It was spring time, and the days were getting warmer. Mr Arable put his box in the yard under an apple tree.

Every morning after breakfast, Wilbur walked out to the road with Fern and waited with her till the bus came. She waved good-bye to him, and he stood and watched the bus until it disappeared around a turn. When Fern was at school, Wilbur was inside the yard. But when she got home in the afternoon, she took him out and he followed her around the place. If she went into the house, Wilbur went, too. If she went upstairs, Wilbur waited until she came down again. If she took her doll for a walk in the doll carriage<sup>1</sup>, Wilbur followed along. Sometimes Wilbur got tired, and Fern picked him up and put him in the carriage near the doll. He liked this.

One warm afternoon, Fern and Avery went to the river for a swim. When she jumped into the water, Wilbur

<sup>1</sup> **doll carriage** ['kæridʒ] — коляска для куклы



jumped in with her. He found the water quite cold — too cold for him. So while the children swam and played in the water, Wilbur enjoyed himself in the mud<sup>1</sup> near the river, where it was warm and pleasant.

Every day was a happy day. But once, when Wilbur was five weeks old, Mr Arable said that Wilbur was now big enough to sell<sup>2</sup>. Fern wept<sup>3</sup>. But her father was firm<sup>4</sup> about it. Wilbur's appetite was becoming stronger, he was beginning to eat a lot of food. Mr Arable could not give him so much any longer. He had already sold Wilbur's ten brothers and sisters.

“He must go, Fern,” he said. “You have had your fun with a baby pig, but Wilbur is not a baby any longer and I must sell him. Tell your Uncle Homer about the pig. He

<sup>1</sup> mud [mʌd] — грязь

<sup>2</sup> to sell (sold [sould], sold) — продавать

<sup>3</sup> to weep (wept) — плакать

<sup>4</sup> firm [fɜ:m] — твердый, решительный, настойчивый

sometimes raised pigs. And if Wilbur goes there to live, you can walk down the road and visit him as often as you like.”

“How much money can I ask for him?” Fern wanted to know.

“Well,” said her father, “he is a weak and little pig. Tell your Uncle Homer you’ve got a pig you’ll sell for six dollars, and see what he says.”

Fern talked to her Uncle. When he heard that the price was only six dollars, he said he could buy the pig. Next day Fern took Wilbur from his home under the apple tree and brought him to her Uncle Homer’s barn.

## Do You Understand The Story?

**12** *Choose and read the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 Wilbur felt happy because :
  - Fern took care of him and gave him much food.
  - Fern always spoke to him very gently.
  - he liked the box in which he lived.
- 2 Fern sometimes put Winbur in the carriage near her doll because:
  - she saw that Wibur was tired.
  - it was funny to look at the pig lying near the doll.
  - Winbur was naughty and did not want to walk any longer.
- 3 When they were near the river, Winbur enjoyed himself because:
  - he liked to play in the mud near the river, where it was warm and pleasant.
  - he liked to watch the children swimming.
  - he felt it was fun to jump into the water.

- 4 Fern had to give Wilbur to her Uncle because:
- he began to eat too much food.
  - he wasn't fun any longer.
  - Fern's father wanted to sell him.

**13** *Find in the text and read the sentences which describe:*

- how Fern took care of Wilbur;
- where Wilbur lived;
- what fun the girl had;
- what Fern's father decided to do when Wilbur grew up;
- how Fern did her best not to part with Wilbur.

**14** *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Did Fern love Wilbur? How do you know?
- 2 How did Fern treat Wilbur?
- 3 Was Wilbur also friendly to Fern? How did he show this?
- 4 Why do you think Mr Arable decided to find a new place for Wilbur?
- 5 Did Wilbur give much trouble to Fern?
- 6 How old was Wilbur when Mr Arable said he was going to sell him?
- 7 Why was Mr Arable going to sell the pig?
- 8 Who bought Wilbur?
- 9 Why did Fern agree to sell the pig?

**How Good Is Your English? (see pp 46–47)** ● ● ● ●

### **What Do You Think?**

- 15 *What do you think will happen next? Use your imagination freely.*
- 16 *Do you think a pig can be a pet? Why or why not? Would you like to have a pet like Wilbur?*



## How Good Is Your English?



17 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 All parents want to make their children's ..... happy.
- 2 If you are not ..... healthy, you mustn't go to the river for a swim.
- 3 When you walk for a very long time, you get ..... .
- 4 The girl is big ..... to understand what's what.
- 5 The child couldn't drink his milk. It was ..... hot.

enough
too
tired
quite
life

18 Find the words which are opposite in meaning.

love	give
happy	sell
inside	always
strong	outside
buy	hate
never	sad
take	weak

19 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 Every afternoon the school bus stopped ..... the girl's house.
- 2 Fern waved good-bye ..... her pet when she climbed ..... the bus.
- 3 "You can sell the pig ..... six dollars," Fern's father said.
- 4 As the animal grew, it began to eat a lot ..... food.
- 5 The bus soon disappeared ..... a turn.

near
to
into
around
of

20

Match the words in column A with the words in column B.

A	B
shiny	clouds
dark	sea shells
lovely	evenings
long	rest
open	stars
nice	sea

21 a) Fill in Past Indefinite and Present Perfect for each of the verbs.

	Past Indefinite	Present Perfect
to give	<i>gave</i>	<i>have/has given</i>
to feed		
to get		
to find		
to sell		
to buy		
to tell		

b) Past Indefinite? Present Perfect? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).

- The girl (fed, has fed) her pet several times during the day, every morning, every afternoon, at suppertime and before going to bed.
- One warm afternoon, the children (went, have gone) to the river.
- "I (sold, have sold) already all Wilbur's sisters and brothers," Fern's father said.
- "You (had, have had) fun with the baby pet," Father told Fern, "and now I am going to sell it."
- When Fern's Uncle (heard, has heard) about the price, he agreed to buy the pig.