

Reading 3

ASK THE DOG

Mrs. Tomkins left the south sitting-room of the Halfway Hotel in Silbury and went to find the manager. She complained about a large dog which was frequently to be found sitting in the best armchair in the sitting-room.

‘I can’t understand,’ she said, ‘why you allow dogs in the sitting-room at all, Mr. Goff. The proper place for a dog is outside. Nobody can sit in that chair when the dog’s in it; and we don’t really like to use it afterwards because it may be dirty. Some dogs aren’t clean, you know. Can you please keep the animal out?’

Goff promised to do what he could. He and his wife were simple people and had only lately bought the hotel. It was making a profit, but not a large profit. They needed all visitors they could get, and they did not want people to leave because of dogs. He went to talk the matter over with his wife. She herself had noticed this dog and she agreed with Mrs. Tomkins. In her opinion, no dogs ought to be allowed in the hotel at all.

‘But we don’t want to drive anyone away,’ said Goff, ‘It’s very difficult. If we refuse to allow dogs in the hotel, dog-owners won’t come here to stay and we’ll lose money.’ They discussed dogs for some time and finally agreed that dogs could come into the hotel, but must not sit on the chairs.

To make this decision known to all their guests, Mrs. Goff wrote out a rough notice and showed it to her husband. On it were the words: ‘Dogs must not be allowed to sit on the furniture.’

‘We can put this near the front door,’ she said.

‘I don’t like it very much,’ he said doubtfully. It is not polite. It’s too severe. It’s like an order. These people aren’t in the army. We don’t want to make them angry.’

Mrs. Goff went away to think again. Some time later a notice was put up near the front door of the hotel. It was quite artistic; the words were in blue on a yellow board, and she had drawn a picture of a dog’s head at the top. The words below the drawing were as follows:

Dogs are welcome, but are asked not to go into the dining-room and not to sit on the furniture.

When Goff saw this notice for the first time, a thoughtful expression came over his face. He went to find his wife, and said to her in a doubtful voice, ‘I’m still worried about that notice. English dogs may be able to read it, but if any foreign dogs come to stay, they won’t understand it.’

Choose the best answer.

1. When Mrs. Tomkins left the sitting-room of the Halfway Hotel, she

- A** found the dog.
- B** found Mrs. Goff.
- C** looked for the dog.

D looked for the manager.

2. *When she saw the manager she expressed*

- A her dissatisfaction with the armchairs in the hotel.
- B her dissatisfaction with the dog's being in the sitting-room.
- C her satisfaction with the armchairs in the hotel.
- D her satisfaction with the dog's being in the sitting-room.

3. *When Mrs. Tomkins spoke to the manager she said that she*

- A hated the dog being outside.
- B loved the dog being outside.
- C wanted the dog in the hotel.
- D wished the dog out of the hotel.

4. *She said the dog was in the armchair*

- A all day long.
- B now and then.
- C often
- D once in a while.

5. *Mrs. Goff thought dogs should not be allowed*

- A in an armchair.
- B in the best armchair.
- C in the hotel.
- D in the sitting-room.