



## A: What Happened?

- In the picture find the following things:
  - duckling
  - duck
  - tow truck
  - police officer
  - sewer pipe
  - grate



- Today's article is about a family of ducks. Work in pairs. Look at the picture again and answer these questions:
  - What do you think happened?
  - How did the ducklings get there?
  - Who found the ducklings?

## B: Vocabulary

- Look at the pictures. Each picture shows the meaning of a verb from today's article. Match the verbs with the correct picture.
  - to follow
  - to waddle
  - to shove
  - to grab
  - to fall down



- Now put the verbs into the **past simple** tense. (Example: follow **Answer:** followed)

## C: Questions

Look at the pictures in Activity B again and answer the questions below.

- What did the ducklings **fall down**?
- What did the mother duck **grab**?
- Who **shoved** the mother duck?
- Where did the mother duck **waddle**?
- Who **followed** the mother duck?



# Reading Activities

## A: Scanning

Read the questions and find the answers as quickly as you can. Your teacher will give you a time limit.

1. In which city do the ducks live?
2. What is the police officer's name?
3. The police officer talked to a newspaper. What is the name of the newspaper?
4. How many ducklings fell down the sewer?
5. What helped open the sewer grate?

VANCOUVER, British Columbia Friday July 13 (Reuters) - When a family of ducklings fell down a Vancouver sewer grate their mother did what any parent would do. She got help from a police officer.

Vancouver police officer Ray Peterson admitted he was not sure what to think of the duck that grabbed him by the pant leg while he was on foot patrol on Wednesday evening in a neighborhood near the city's downtown.

"I thought it was a bit **goofy**, so I shoved it away," Peterson told the Vancouver Sun newspaper. The mother duck **per-**

**sisted**, grabbing Peterson's leg again when he tried to leave, and then waddling to a nearby sewer grate where she sat down and waited for him to follow and **investigate**.

"I went up to where the duck was lying and saw eight little babies in the water below," he said.

Police said they removed the grate with the help of a tow truck and used a vegetable **strainer** to lift the ducklings to safety.

The mother and the ducklings then left for a nearby pond.

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**goofy** - silly

**investigate** - try to find out about something

**persisted** - to continue to do something, although it is difficult

**strainer** - a thing used in cooking to separate pieces of vegetable from water

## B: Ordering the Events

Before you read the article again, number the sentences in the order the events happened in today's article.

- \_\_\_ The police officer saw the ducklings.
- \_\_\_ Eight ducklings fell down a sewer grate.
- \_\_\_ The duck grabbed the police officer's leg again.
- \_\_\_ The duck sat down and waited.
- \_\_\_ The police officer shoved the duck away.
- \_\_\_ The duck waddled to the sewer grate.
- \_\_\_ The police officer followed.
- \_\_\_ A tow truck removed the sewer grate.
- \_\_\_ The police officer lifted the ducklings out of the sewer.
- \_\_\_ The mother duck grabbed a police officer's leg to get help.
- \_\_\_ The mother and the ducklings left for a pond.

Now read the article and check your work.

## C: Questions

1. Look at the questions below. The words are not in the correct order. Put them into the correct order.
  - a. duck / did / mother / grab / the / Why / police / officer's / pant / leg / the ?
  - b. did / the / What / police / do / officer ?
  - c. did / What / the / duck / mother / do ?
  - d. What / the / did / officer / police / see ?
  - e. did / tow / the / truck / do / What ?
  - f. did / How / out / police / lift / of / the / ducklings / the / sewer ?
2. Now answer the questions.



## D: Headlines

A good headline will not have many words. It tells the reader a little about the story of the article **and** tries to make people want to read the article.

Which of these headlines do you think is the best one for today's article? Why?

1. **Ducklings Fall Down Sewer**
2. **Tow Truck Rescues Ducklings from Sewer**
3. **Police Officer on Foot Patrol Helps Mother Duck in Neighborhood near City's Downtown**
4. **Ducklings in Trouble, Mother Calls the Police**

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Language

In today's article there were these words: *'I thought it was a bit goofy, **so** I shoved it away...'*

We use 'so' to show the **result** of something:

The policeman felt that what was happening was silly **so** he shoved the mother duck away.

Examples using so:

*I really enjoyed that ice-cream, **so** I'm going to have another one.*

*I didn't go to bed until 11 o'clock last night, **so** I'm tired today.*

We can also use '**because**': *I shoved it away **because** I thought it was a bit goofy.*

We use 'because' to show the **reason** for something.

The reason the officer shoved the duck away was he thought it was a bit goofy.

Examples using because:

*I'm going to have another one because I really enjoyed that ice-cream.*

*I'm tired today because I didn't go to bed until 11 o'clock last night.*

### Part One

Look at the words below and write two sentences: one sentence using 'so' and one sentence using 'because'.

**Example:** It's spring / the weather is warmer.

**Answer:** *It's spring, so the weather is warmer. The weather is warmer because it's spring.*

1. I've worked hard / I'm tired.
2. the phone rang / I answered it.
3. I'm happy / the baby is sleeping.
4. it's spring / the weather is warmer.

### Part Two

Fill the gaps in these sentences using '**so**' or '**because**'.

- 1a. The mother duck was worried, \_\_\_\_\_ she grabbed the police officer's leg.
- 1b. The mother duck grabbed the police officer's leg \_\_\_\_\_ she was worried.
- 2a. Peterson phoned for help \_\_\_\_\_ the ducklings were trapped in the sewer.
- 2b. The ducklings were trapped in the sewer, \_\_\_\_\_ Peterson phoned for help.
- 3a. The grate was very heavy, \_\_\_\_\_ the police called a tow truck.
- 3b. \_\_\_\_\_ the grate was very heavy the police called a tow truck.
- 4a. The mother duck wanted Peterson to see her babies, \_\_\_\_\_ she sat down near the sewer grate.
- 4b. The mother duck sat down near the sewer grate \_\_\_\_\_ she wanted Peterson to see her babies.



### Part Three

Now write three more sentences by yourself using **so** and **because**.

1.

2.

3.

### B: Discussion

In pairs and small groups discuss the questions below.

1. What do you think of today's story?
2. What do you think of the mother duck asking for help from the police officer?
3. Do you think the duck knew what she was doing?
4. Do you think ducks are very clever?
5. Do you know of any other stories similar to this?

### C: Vocabulary

Work in pairs and answer the questions below.

1. "a family of ducklings **fell down** ..." Have you ever fallen down and hurt yourself? What happened?
2. Have you ever asked for **help** from a **police officer**? What happened?
3. Have you ever **shoved** someone or something away? What happened?
4. The duck **grabbed** the police officer's leg. What other things can you **grab**? What is the difference between **grab** and **take**?

Teachers' Notes and Answer Key follow



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: What Happened? - Notes

2. You may want to do this activity as a class, helping with vocabulary when needed. Allow students to speculate. Accept a variety of answers, so all the students will be encouraged to make guesses about what happened. Don't tell them the correct answer at this stage.

### B: Vocabulary - Notes

1. If your students have difficulty with these verbs, a quick demonstration may be an efficient way of helping them to understand. Anyone should be able to demonstrate **grab**, **follow** and **shove**. If you don't want to be a duck, ask one of the students to demonstrate how a duck moves, which will help them learn the meaning of **waddle**.

2. **follow**, **waddle**, **shove** and **stop** are all regular verbs. Their simple past tense form ends in **-ed**. **Fall** is irregular, the past simple tense form is '**fell**'. You may wish to point out to students the spelling rule for 'grab': grab ends in **a vowel + a consonant**, so the consonant '**b**' is doubled before **-ed** (and also **-ing**).

### B: Vocabulary - Answers

- a. picture 5  
b. picture 4  
c. picture 3  
d. picture 2  
e. picture 1
- followed, waddled, shoved, grabbed, fell down.

### C: Questions - Notes

Students use the pictures to answer the questions. (For Question 2 if the students give the answer 'police officer,' highlight the difference between **who** questions (people) and **what** questions (things).)

### C: Questions - Answers

- A sewer pipe or sewer grate
- The police officer's leg
- The police officer
- To the sewer pipe
- The police officer

## Reading Activities

### A: Scanning - Notes

Students read the questions and then look for the answers. Tell them not to read every word but scan the article. If they find words they do not understand, they do not need to focus on them at this stage. Set a time limit appropriate for the level of your class which will encourage them to work quickly.

### A: Scanning - Answers

- Vancouver
- Ray Peterson
- the Vancouver Sun
- 8
- a tow truck

### B: Ordering the Events - Answers

- The police officer saw the ducklings.
- Eight ducklings fell down a sewer grate.
- The duck grabbed the police officer's leg again.
- The duck sat down and waited.
- The police officer shoved the duck away.
- The duck waddled to the sewer grate.
- The police officer followed.
- A tow truck removed the sewer grate.
- The police officer lifted the ducklings out of the sewer.
- The mother duck grabbed a police officer's leg to get help.
- The mother and the ducklings left for a pond.

### C: Questions - Answers

- Why did the mother duck grab the police officer's pant leg? - To get help for her ducklings.
- What did the police officer do? - He shoved the duck away.
- What did the mother duck do? - Grabbed the police officer's leg again, waddled to the sewer grate and sat down.
- What did the police officer see? - Eight ducklings in the water below.
- What did the tow truck do? - Remove the grate.
- How did police lift the ducklings out of the sewer? - They used a vegetable strainer.

### D: Headlines - Notes

Students could work in pairs or small groups to choose a headline. Ask them to explain why they made their choice.

### D: Headlines - Answer

Headline 4 is the original headline. It summarizes the story efficiently (ducklings in trouble) and gives enough information to make a reader curious to know more (Mother Calls Police). Headline 1 is possible, Headline 2 is inaccurate (the tow truck lifted the grate up so that the police could rescue the ducklings) and Headline 3 has too many words and too much detail.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Language - Notes

#### Part One:

Students need to think about which part of the sentence is the result for sentences with 'so'. (They need to think about which is the 'reason' part for 'because'.) If they don't, they could end up with a sentence like this for Number 3: The baby is sleeping, because I'm happy or I'm happy, so the baby is sleeping. This is not the intended meaning of the sentence! They could come up with other incorrect combinations for the other questions too (e.g. *I answered the phone, so it rang etc.*).

#### Part Two:

Question 3b introduces students to the idea that 'because' can also go at the beginning of the sentence.

### A: Language - Answers

#### Part One

- I've worked hard, so I'm tired. I'm tired because I've worked hard.
- The phone rang, so I answered it. I answered the phone because it rang.
- I'm happy because the baby is sleeping. The baby is sleeping, so I'm happy.
- It's spring, so the weather is warmer. The weather is warmer because it is spring.

#### Part Two

- a. The mother duck was worried, so she grabbed the police officer's leg.  
b. The mother duck grabbed the police officer's leg because she was worried.
- a. Peterson phoned for help because the ducklings were trapped in the sewer.  
b. The ducklings were trapped in the sewer, so Peterson phoned for help.
- a. The grate was very heavy, so the police called a tow truck.  
b. Because the grate was very heavy, the police called a tow truck.
- a. The mother duck wanted Peterson to see her babies, so she sat down near the sewer grate.  
b. The mother duck sat down near the sewer grate because she wanted Peterson to see her babies.

#### Part Three:

Answers will vary.