



My uncle Desmond lives in Ireland. He owns a cottage in the country. He hasn't got a wife. He hasn't got a pet. He lives on his own. I'm his only relative.

Desmond writes me a letter every week. Why does he write a lot of letters? It's because he feels quite lonely. I like him very much. He is my favourite uncle.

I think about a Christmas present. What does he need? He needs someone to talk to and keep his company. A dog perhaps? Or a cat?



I go to a pet shop. They sell rabbits, hamsters and even snakes. There is a parrot in a cage. It's blue, green and red. It says: "Good morning, my friend!"

Now a shop assistant comes. She also says: "Good morning!" Then the bird says: "Bye-bye!" We smile.

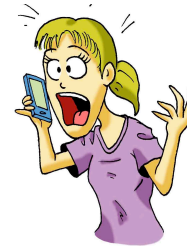


Then I say: "What a beautiful present for my uncle." I ask: "Has this parrot a large vocabulary?" The shop-assistant answers:

"Oh yes, it has. It knows about a hundred words."



I ask: "What about four-letter words?" "No problem at all. This parrot only speaks decent words." I buy the parrot. I also buy the cage. It's rather expensive.



**to own:** besitzen  
**to live on one's own:** alleine leben  
**cottage:** kl. Landhaus  
**in the country:** auf dem Land  
**wife:** Ehefrau  
**quite:** ziemlich  
**lonely:** einsam  
**present:** Geschenk  
**keep company:** Gesellschaft leisten  
**perhaps:** vielleicht  
**pet shop:** Tierhandlung  
**even:** sogar  
**parrot:** Papagei  
**cage:** Käfig  
**decent:** anständig  
**delicious:** köstlich

Then I send the parrot to Ireland. I phone Desmond some days after Christmas Day. I ask about the parrot: "How did you like the bird?" He replies: "I had it on Christmas Eve. It was absolutely delicious."



## Do we eat it? Underline the things people like to eat:

cottages - bananas – horseshoes – parrots – pets – chicken – apples – rabbits – hamsters – dogs – postcards – aunts – husbands – tomatoes – bread – eggs - sausages – hamburgers – letters – stones – bikes – streets – islands – palm trees – swimming pools – grapes – candy – hot dogs – lions – toothbrushes – sailing boats – lunches – supper – keys – doors – teachers – books – fish – frogs -

### about:

1) about a hundred words: ungefähr hundert Wörter  
 2) What about a parrot?: Wie steht's / Wie wär's mit einem Papageien?

### four-letter word:

unanständiges Wort (weil die meisten davon im Englischen vier Buchstaben haben)