

ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION – ANNUAL 2019
TEACHERS' COPY

Diary of Ben's tennis ball

Saturday 25th May

All week, as usual, I had spent my days in a plastic tub, but Saturday was Ben's tennis day. I could hear the dishes being put in the dishwasher and knew that breakfast was over. Next I heard Ben's footsteps hurrying down the hall and the door being opened. He put me in a backpack with his tennis racquet, trainers, clean socks (fortunately), a bottle of cold water, an orange and a towel.

We all bobbed around in the backpack as Ben cycled to the tennis courts. I was feeling cold and squashed up next to the water bottle. Was I glad when I landed on top of the towel when Ben went over a big bump!

At the tennis court I was gently tapped by the racquet a little way in the air before I landed back on the racquet and bounced back up again. This was a warm-up exercise. Now for the real thing! This time I was whacked over a net and landed on the other side. Ben's partner's racquet hit me back. Ouch! At least I was getting some exercise in the fresh air.

I didn't like it when Ben hit me hard and I went headfirst into the net. He had to grab hold of me tightly to squeeze me out of the hole I was stuck in. Another time I was hit so hard that I eventually ended up at the back of the courts where a large puddle was waiting for me. It wasn't so bad getting wet as I was pretty hot and bothered by this time!

When we finally got home, Ben took his water bottle out of his backpack and left the rest of us in the backpack next to his bike. Unfortunately he left the zip open. Shortly afterwards I heard a snuffling noise and then saw a wet nose sniffing in the bag. Rufus, Ben's dog, had sniffed me out! He loves balls. I spent fifteen minutes in a warm, wet mouth between teeth that were poking into me. He dropped me now and then, sometimes on the grass and other times in the itchy sand.

At last Rufus got tired and dropped me near the bin. I rolled behind it to hide. I would much rather be next to a smelly bin until Ben found me than covered in dog drool!