



*Read the selection without stopping to choose the correct missing words. Then read it again, pausing to underline the correct words. Finally, read the selection again to see if it makes sense.*

## **EnglishiExcel International**

### **Foundation Exam Intensive Week 10**

#### **Dog Face**

I \_\_1\_\_ by Mr. J. Gerald Cowcamper's house one day and was greeted by a rather old looking dog. She was a gentle beast who \_\_2\_\_ her tail as she pushed her nose against my hand.

“What's her \_\_3\_\_?” I asked.

“I call her ‘Dog Face,’” replied the old \_\_4\_\_.

“\_\_5\_\_ do you call her that?” I inquired.

“Isn't it obvious?” asked Mr. Cowcamper.

“Not really.”

Mr. Cowcamper cradled the old animal's head in his hands. “If you \_\_6\_\_ at just the right angle, you can see that she seems to have a dog's face,” he \_\_7\_\_.

“But she *is* a \_\_8\_\_!” I said.

“Shhhh!” Mr. Cowcamper responded with the loudest whisper I have ever \_\_9\_\_.

“Don't let her hear you say that!” I said \_\_10\_\_, because I didn't know what to say.

1. stopped	ran	went	carried
2. chased	bit	wagged	lost
3. breed	problem	age	name
4. dog	cow	lady	gentleman
5. How	Why	Where	When
6. listen	look	call	wonder
7. explained	asked	smelled	knew
8. person	female	dog	potato
9. spoken	seen	found	heard
10. here	yes	words	nothing

### A Little Advice

Allow me to give you a little advice about writing fiction. First, make your characters believable. Make sure that they behave and talk as individuals. In real life, everyone is unique. If all your characters speak the same way and react to things in the same way, you'll lose your readers from the start.

Once your readers believe in your characters, you must get them to care. Each reader must be able to identify with at least one character, to almost become that character in his or her mind. You can do this by developing characters with genuine human traits, both good and bad. The individuals who populate your story should have human strengths and weaknesses.

Now it's time to weave your tale, to create a plot. Your readers are part of the story now; they are involved.

One last thing. Your story must touch the readers' emotions. If you can make them laugh and cry along with your characters, you will be a successful writer.

1. For discussion: Think of a favorite book, movie, or television program. Give examples of how the author or writers followed any of the rules presented in this essay.

## The Idea

Andy Wasnick loved the idea. Mary Arthur \_\_1\_\_ it. Kurt Mendez didn't think it was any big deal. Mr. El thought it was a brilliant idea. After all, it was \_\_2\_\_ idea.

"It's only fair," Mr. El explained to his new fourth graders as they stood in line waiting for the lunch bell to ring, "that we turn things around. Every year you guys line up in alphabetical \_\_3\_\_. Alphabetical order to go to lunch, to go to gym, to go home, and so on. This \_\_4\_\_ we're using reverse alphabetical order."

Mindy Vale put her hand down as Mr. El pointed to her. "I've always had to stand at the \_\_5\_\_ of the line, ever since \_\_6\_\_! Now I'm near the front. Thank you, thank you!"

The teacher smiled. Then he called on Christopher Cash, a serious and thoughtful young man. "Mr. El, I think you should reconsider this policy. This is very drastic and \_\_7\_\_. This could confuse our fragile young minds!"

"Put a lid on it, Chris!" shouted David Tyler.

"We won't have any outbursts like that, David!" Mr. El said firmly. He turned toward Christopher. "Don't \_\_8\_\_, Christopher. We only have strong minds in this class."

"How many of you think this is a good idea?" Mr. El asked. As you would probably \_\_9\_\_, most of the hands that went up were in the \_\_10\_\_ half of the line.

- |    |         |           |          |        |
|----|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 1. | heard   | liked     | needed   | hated  |
| 2. | that    | no        | her      | his    |
| 3. | letters | soup      | order    | index  |
| 4. | way     | year      | alphabet | is     |
| 5. | back    | beginning | center   | winner |

6.	breakfast	kindergarten	yesterday	tomorrow
7.	useful	thoughtful	unnecessary	smart
8.	move	worry	scream	speak
9.	expect	doubt	forget	review
10.	dumb	bright	angry	front