

## Lesson 16: Robopet

Hi! How are you today?

Today's lesson is about "**Robopet.**"

Have fun learning English!

### Warm-up | Useful Expressions

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

- **solution** – the way to deal with a problem
- **luxury** – something that is not a necessity but is considered to bring pleasure or happiness
- **mood** – a state of mind or feeling
- **lighten someone up** – make someone more relaxed, less serious or gloomy
- **in good shape** – in good health; in a good condition

## Activity 1 | Dialogue

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

*Andy and Max are talking about Andy's present.*

**Andy:** Guess what I got as a present? It was a great surprise!

**Max:** I have no idea. What did you get?

**Andy:** A puppy!

**Max:** How nice! Did you name him already? Or her?

**Andy:** "Him," I named him Bruno.

**Max:** What's his breed?

**Andy:** It's a dachshund. I walked him around the park yesterday.

**Max:** You sure love your puppy. I wish I could have a pet, too!

**Andy:** Yes, of course. Bruno makes me happy.

**Max:** Does it always make some noise?

**Andy:** At first he was a bit noisy but I have trained him to be quiet. I don't want to disturb my neighbors.

**Max:** That's good. My neighbor's dog is barking all the time.

**Andy:** I think he just needs attention.

**Max:** You're probably right.

**Check your understanding:** Answer the following questions.

1. What did Andy get as a present?
2. What kind of dog is Bruno?
3. Why did Andy train his pet to be quiet?

## Activity 2 | Passage

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**Directions:** Read the passage and answer the questions.

More than 50% of households in the UK own a pet. In America, 39% of households own a dog. There are over 78 million pet dogs in the USA alone. Why are they so popular? What will happen to our pets in the future? Man has kept animals for work for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians started keeping pets around 5,500 years ago. They even worshipped cats.

The Romans also kept cats to catch mice. Many years later, a pet became a **luxury** that only the rich people could afford. Pets also became popular among the middle classes in England. Then canned dog food was invented to keep them **in good shape**.

It is believed that keeping pets can improve your **mood**. Stroking the soft fur of a cat can **lighten someone up**. Pets may be good for your health. A recent survey showed that New York stockbrokers with pets had lower blood pressure than those that didn't have pets.

Nowadays, cities are getting more crowded. There is less space for keeping real pets. The Japanese have found a **solution** to this: the "robodog" or "robocat". The robot animals have exactly the same beneficial health effects as the real ones. However, they do not need the space or food that real pets do. It could be the perfect pet for the future!

### Questions

1. For what purpose were animals kept thousands of years ago?
2. Why did the Romans keep cats?
3. Why could pets be good for humans?
4. How do the Japanese solve the problem of keeping pets?
5. Which do you prefer, real pets or "robopets"? Why?
6. Do you think pets can be good for you? Why or why not?

### Activity 3 | Free Conversation

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**Directions:** Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions

1. Do you like taking care of pets? Why or why not?
2. What kind of pets do you like to keep? How do you take care of them?
3. Do you think pets are worth keeping? Why?
4. Do you think pet animals are helpful to humans? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree with the saying, "A dog is a man's best friend"? Why?