

Listen to Dave talking about travelling to different countries with his cats.

## Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

#### Definition

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. .... a cat flap | a. a baby cat   |
| 2. .... to cuddle  | b. to take another person's child and legally become their parent |
| 3. .... cute       | c. pleasant and attractive  |
| 4. .... to squash  | d. a little door for cats   |
| 5. .... a kitten   | e. to walk around without a purpose                               |
| 6. .... to wander  | f. to move your hand gently over skin, hair or fur                |
| 7. .... to adopt   | g. to put your arms around someone and hold them in a loving way  |
| 8. .... to stroke  | h. to press or crush something into a flat shape                  |

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. Misha and Masha are Russian cats.	True	False
2. Misha and Masha were rescued from the Russian winter.	True	False
3. The speaker already had two Indian cats.	True	False
4. The cats had to stay in France for two years to check that they were healthy.	True	False
5. Misha and Masha had lots of friends in Cambridge.	True	False
6. In Mexico, the speaker made special changes to his garden to make sure that Misha and Masha didn't get out.	True	False
7. In China, Misha and Masha can roam about wherever they want.	True	False
8. Masha has become softer and friendlier as she has got older.	True	False

**Task 2**

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. around the    the millennium    the middle    dawn of    in    They were born    of  
winter.
2. are    St Petersburg    very    winters    very,    cold.
3. snow.    two tiny    They found    little    in the    kittens    these
4. office.    an    the    email    sent    They    around
5. They    cute    that we    couldn't    say no.    were    so
6. They    with us    for,    lived    two    years.    like,
7. that    is    thing    The    interesting    their personality    has changed.
8. very happy    seem    just    to be    They    being    in the flat.

**Discussion**

Have you ever had a cat?

## Transcript

I'd like to talk about my two cats, who are called Misha and Masha, and they're nine years old. And because I work for the British Council and I've worked in lots of different parts of the world, they're quite international cats. So they were born in St Petersburg, Russia, around the dawn of the millennium, in the middle of winter. And St Petersburg winters are very, very cold, so it's kind of minus 30 degrees, and some friends of mine found these two tiny little kittens in the snow and brought them in and then sent an email around the office saying 'Who can look after these two cats?' And my wife and I already had two cats at the time, from Indonesia, and we thought can we ... have we got room ... can we adopt these two new cats? And then when we saw them, they were just so cute that we couldn't say no. So we brought them home and so they lived with us for, like, two years in Russia. And then we moved back to the UK and they had to stay in France for six months, erm, just to check that they didn't have rabies ... erm, before they were allowed into the UK. And then they lived with us in Cambridge and we had a cat flap so they used to wander about it.

When it came to leave the UK, we discovered that they'd in fact had about five or six different homes and had made friends with all kinds of people along the street and used to go and get fed and get stroked and cuddled by all of our neighbours. Then we moved to Mexico and we had a house with a garden, so we had to build a special fence that kind of curled in on itself so that the cats would climb up and then feel that they were starting to fall down so they'd climb back down again.

And then we moved to Guangzhou this time last year. So now they are 'flat cats', erm, they've not been squashed, they just live in our flat, live in our apartment and they don't go out. They just go out onto the balcony. But the interesting thing is that their personality has ... seems to have changed in every country they've lived in. So Masha used not to be very friendly towards people. As she's got older, she's now quite a cuddly cat. And they've adapted to living, to being kind of free to roam about and then being in the garden and now they seem to be very happy just being in a flat.

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. d
2. g
3. c
4. h
5. a
6. e
7. b
8. f

### Task 1

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. True

### Task 2

1. They were born around the dawn of the millennium in the middle of winter.
2. St Petersburg winters are very, very cold.
3. They found these two tiny little kittens in the snow.
4. They sent an email around the office.
5. They were so cute that we couldn't say no.
6. They lived with us for, like, two years.
7. The interesting thing is that their personality has changed.
8. They seem to be very happy just being in the flat.