

Unit



Interviews

Tools in this unit

- Reading tools: Understanding 'A dog's life'
- Grammar tools: Nouns
- Vocabulary tools: Vowels and consonants; Syllables
- Spelling tools: Singular and plural nouns
- Punctuation tools: Capital letters and full stops
- Writing and creating tools: Conduct your own oral interview

Modes covered

- Receptive: Reading, listening, viewing
- Productive: Speaking, writing, creating

General capabilities

- Literacy
- Information and communication technology capability
- Critical and creative thinking

Curriculum content in this unit

- Language for interaction: ACELA1782
- Text structure and organisation: ACELA1763
- Expressing and developing ideas: ACELA1537, ACELA1539
- Examining literature: ACELT1622
- Interacting with others: ACELY1804, ACELY1720
- Interpreting, analysing, evaluating: ACELY1721, ACELY1724
- Creating texts: ACELY1725, ACELY1724, ACELY1728

Responding to texts

‘A dog’s life’



Interview A

‘We’ve got a two-year-old giant black labrador. He’s called “Lucky” because the breeder said that he was the runt of the litter and lucky to be alive. So far, Lucky’s eaten two deckchairs, five big mats, lots of tennis balls and all of the roses. He weighed 44 kg so we put him on a diet and now he weighs 40 kg. I only weigh 39 kg.

Lucky usually sleeps in his kennel but when Dad’s away he sleeps on my bed. Once he did a giant poop on my brother Ned’s pillow. Another time when we were at school he broke into the house and got into the paint tins. My mum is an artist. When we got home there was orange paint all over the carpet and Lucky looked like a tiger. Mum wasn’t very happy and the carpet’s still a bit orange-looking.’

Hunter, 12 years old, interviewed by Jackie Terrier



Interview B

‘One really hot day last summer our dog Zack went missing. He’s a golden retriever and about a hundred years old. The local bottle shop called and said that Zack was sitting in the shop near the beer fridge.’

Ellen, 13 years old, interviewed by Jackie Terrier



Understanding 'A dog's life'

Read the text '**A dog's life**' then complete the following questions. You may use a dictionary.

- 1 Where does Lucky usually sleep?
- 2 What does the phrase 'runt of the litter' mean?
- 3 Tick one box only for each of the following.
 - a What are the interviews with dog owners about?

history of dogs in families	<input type="checkbox"/>
interview with dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>
funny/naughty things dogs do	<input type="checkbox"/>
embarrassing things dogs do	<input type="checkbox"/>
 - b Who do you think would enjoy reading these interviews?

dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>
teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>
cat lovers	<input type="checkbox"/>
 - c What type of text is '**A dog's life**'?

interview	<input type="checkbox"/>
newspaper article	<input type="checkbox"/>
poem	<input type="checkbox"/>
 - d Which best describes the reason why these interviews were conducted?

to persuade the reader that dogs are dangerous	<input type="checkbox"/>
to instruct the reader how to care for dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>
to describe an incident about a dog	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nouns

Nouns are naming words. They name people, places, animals, things, qualities, emotions or conditions, e.g. Bruce, Australia, kangaroo, football, determination.

Four types of nouns

1 Proper nouns begin with a capital letter and name people, places, titles, days and months.

Examples: Canberra, Jessica, Doctor, Friday, February

2 Common nouns name general things around you that you can see and touch.

Examples: chair, dog, grass, meat pie, apple

3 Collective nouns name groups or collections of people, animals and things.

Examples: choir, team, herd

4 Abstract nouns name things you can't see, touch or measure, such as emotions, qualities and conditions.

Examples: hate, courage, happiness, loyalty

1 List the five different proper nouns from 'A dog's life'.

2a There are sixteen different nouns, from all four noun groups, in the following paragraph. Identify and highlight them.

Last November the Dog Oscars were held in London. They are called the Fidos. Eight golden labradors won Fidos for Best Actor in the film *Marley & Me*. Four dogs came from the same litter. At the Fidos, bird lovers protested. They held placards that read, 'Stop discrimination against birds' and 'Flocks of seagulls ignored!'

b Complete the table using the nouns you have identified and highlighted.

Proper nouns (6)	Common nouns (8)	Collective nouns (2)	Abstract nouns (1)

3 Write the correct collective noun from the box in the spaces provided below. You may use a dictionary.

herd flock galaxy pride swarm staff pod murder

a group of teachers

b group of cows

c group of whales

d group of crows

e group of bees

f group of birds

g group of lions

h group of stars



Vowels and consonants

There are **26 letters** in the English alphabet:

- **five vowels:** a, e, i, o, u
- **twenty-one consonants:** b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z.

1 Complete the names of the following dog breeds by filling the gaps with the correct vowels.

a A.....r.....d.....l.....

b M.....lt.....s.....

c d.....chsh.....nd

d b.....rd.....r c.....ll.....

e p.....g

f c.....rg.....

Syllables

Syllables are the separate sounds that make up a word. When you break a word into syllables it is easier to pronounce and spell. Syllables are made of a vowel sound with or without one or more consonant sounds.

For example, the word 'syllable' contains three syllables: **syll / a / ble**

Things to note:

- Words that have only one syllable are called 'monosyllabic'.
- When two vowels are next to each other but give only one vowel sound, they count as one syllable.

Examples: great, slee / ping

- Sometimes the letter 'y' acts as a vowel.

Examples: sky, ci / ty

- An easy way to separate the sounds is to tap the beat as you sound the word.

2 Divide the following common nouns into syllables using a forward slash.

Example: labrador = lab / ra / dor

- a** golden retriever
- b** corgi
- c** poodle
- d** terrier
- e** spaniel
- f** Dalmatian
- g** Rottweiler
- h** chihuahua

3 Divide the following abstract nouns into syllables using a forward slash.

- a** anger
- b** determination
- c** happiness
- d** embarrassment
- e** excitement
- f** jealousy
- g** loyalty
- h** justice



Singular and plural nouns

Singular nouns name a person, place, creature, emotion or thing.

Examples: city, canary, crowd, illness

Plural nouns name more than one.

Examples: cities, canaries, crowds, illnesses

Five rules for spelling plural nouns

1 Add 's' to a singular noun:

Examples: dog – dogs, chair – chairs

2 When a noun ends in 's', 'sh', 'ch', 'x' or 'ss', add the ending 'es':

Examples: box – boxes, crash – crashes

3 For most nouns that end in 'o', add the ending 'es':

Example: potato – potatoes

Exception: video – videos

4 When a noun ends in 'y' and there is a consonant immediately before the 'y', change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es':

Example: hobby – hobbies

5 For most nouns that end in 'f', change the 'f' to 'v' and add 'es':

Examples: dwarf – dwarves, leaf – leaves, loaf – loaves

Exceptions: reef – reefs, roof – roofs

Fix it!

Some nouns do not follow any of these rules. You'll be introduced to these exceptions in Unit 8.



1 Change the following singular nouns into their plural form.

- a** pillow
- b** tomato
- c** baby
- d** fox
- e** pass
- f** loaf
- g** rose
- h** hoof

2 Change the following challenging singular nouns into their plural form. Use a dictionary to help you.

- a** brother-in-law
- b** lady
- c** mouse trap
- d** chief
- e** echo
- f** banjo



Capital letters and full stops

Five rules for capital letters

- 1 Proper nouns must begin with a capital letter.

Example: Zack is an ancient dog from Brisbane.

- 2 The first word of every sentence must begin with a capital letter.

Example: The dogs in my street are feral.

- 3 'I' is always written using a capital letter.

Example: When I click my fingers, my dog instantly sits down.

- 4 A capital letter must be used at the beginning of the words spoken, even when they follow a comma.

Example: Ned asked, 'What did the dog do to my pillow?'

- 5 Capital letters are used at the start of every main word in the title of a film, book or play.

Example: *The Giant Dog and the Half-Blood Prince.*

Full stops

Full stops must be used at the end of every sentence that is not a command, a question or an exclamation.

Fix it!

Not all company names, advertisements, and film, CD, book and magazine titles use correct capitalisation. Sometimes new designs and styles use lower case for a style effect.



Example: sanderson solicitors & co.

Interview C

Luisa, thirteen years old

Writing and creating tools

Good writers take the following essential steps:

- **research and plan** before they start to write
- **draft, edit and proofread** before finalising their work.

Good writers also carefully ‘map out’ their writing by asking and answering the following questions:

Message: What is the main point you want to tell your readers? e.g. Dogs are a lot of fun.

Audience: Who will read your piece? e.g. Mum, dog owners, classmates

Purpose: Why are you writing this piece? e.g. to describe, to instruct, to persuade, to imagine

Style: How will your piece look and sound? e.g. funny, friendly, angry

Writing task

Write your own 150-word **‘A dog’s life’** interview.

1 Research

- a Read **‘Interview A’** then list five questions that you think the interviewer asked Hunter.
- b Using these questions, interview a dog owner you know. Or you can interview yourself, answering these questions about your own dog.

2 Plan

- a Copy and complete the following table for your **‘A dog’s life’** piece:

Message	
Audience	
Purpose	
Style	

- b Number answers to interview questions in the order you want them to appear in your writing.

3 Draft

Draft your '**A dog's life**' piece in a notebook or using your school/home computer.

4 Edit and proofread

Check spelling, punctuation and word limit. Read over your writing. Does it make sense?

Has it achieved the goals you mapped out in the planning phase?

Creating task

Explore **multimodal presentation methods** for your '**A dog's life**' piece:

- Use a microphone and recording device to record the interview.
- Film the interview with a digital video camera.
- Record – sound, video or both – with your mobile phone if you don't have any other equipment.
- Incorporate these recordings into a PowerPoint presentation that includes written text, sound and/or video – you may wish to include the sound of your dog barking or photos of your dog.

Listen and respond to what other students have done:

- Deliver your finished piece as an **oral presentation** – in pairs or small groups (three or four students).
- Write a 50-word summary of the presentations you have listened to, giving particular attention to the message, audience, purpose and style of the text.
- Comment on the language choices made by your classmates in their '**A dog's life**' pieces. How is their language similar or different to the language you used in your piece?

