

The Brida Journal

Email: daily@brida.eu

www.journal.brida.eu

Week 11/2021

Ideas and Conversations, for and by learners of English.

Tommy on Tour

How did a small bear start a big adventure and what did he learn? Here is a story, based on some true events.

Chapter 1 – The beginnings. How Tommy came to the Alsace.

In August 2020, a family in Brida posted this message in the Brida Journal:

“Lost a very tiny brown teddy bear, about 7-8 cm tall, somewhere in Brida South. Most likely on the beach. Please let me know if you found him. This bear is a very important member of our family. You will be rewarded. E-Mail: lostteddybear@brida.eu”

The family posted the message again in the “**Welcome to Brida**” Group on WhatsApp last week.

“Missing. Have you seen this Teddy Bear? If you have seen him, where? Please send a message.”

When Frank saw this posting, he commented on what had happened a few months ago. Chahira, from Bejaia in Algeria, wrote at the time:

“If he had been in my area, I would have helped him and taken him home first. Then I would have posted him on Facebook so that his pictures could reach the bear’s owner. The bear will inevitably remain sad until he finds the person he used to live with. By the way, he is so cute”.

It was Monica in Dublin who saw the message in the Welcome to Brida group and she wrote:

“We have a teddy bear with your description in our classroom. Children were very happy to play with him and they even gave him a name: Tommy. Why? Because he has a big tummy, and he is hungry all the time. Is that your teddy bear? Please let me know so I can send him back to his family.”

Julia, over in Mannheim in Germany also saw the message and sent a reply. However, she also opened the door to an incredible possibility.

“Oh no! I haven’t seen the teddy bear. But I hope it will be reunited with its family soon! When I was a child, I loved a book about a rabbit that got lost too. But he decided to travel the world and send letters to his family. Maybe you know him?”

Frank combined Julia’s thought with Monica’s message and especially, her use of the past tense. He had to pursue this and so he wrote a message to Monica:

“Hmm, Monica. I’m a little curious. You said the children “were” very happy to play with him and then you continued “and they gave him a name”. Is he still there or has he moved on? You used the past tense.

Julia, I am beginning to think that he has read the book you mentioned and decided to explore the world too.”

Monica duly replied and shared a little what about Tommy had been up to.

“You are right, Frank. We have the teddy. He is still here. The big children went to big school and now Tommy is waiting in the library, in the company of some puppets. I think it’s better for him to travel back home.”

However, by now, others in the group had become aware of Tommy’s situation. And they commented on it. Monique, from Seebach in France, wrote,

“I also think he must travel around the world. If he passes through France, he will be able to stop in our region. We will accommodate him for a few days and make him discover our beautiful landscapes. Maybe, he will not even want to leave again.”

And further east in the Bavarian town of Nördlingen, Walter wrote,

“I think we should let him have a travel partner so that he is not so lonely when he travels around the world.”

Soon, everyone was thinking about what to do with Tommy.

Frank wrote, “Tommy is originally from Brida, so near the French/Spanish border. I think Walter has a good idea. Walter, where should Monica send Tommy, the next destination? Bavaria, or to the Alsace, or to Mannheim so that he can say hello to Julia? Or, perhaps to Olivier to discover Paris? You choose!”

Walter thought Tommy should actually decide and also wrote what he could offer him.

“Ask him what he likes best. All of Europe is beautiful. I have beer and white sausages.”

Monica, being pragmatic, took over the reins and made an announcement.

“Ok, I am going to check the flights and announce the destination.”

And so, Tommy spent another night in the school library, in the company of some puppets, completely unaware of his own fate.

The next day, Frank had some thoughts and of course, some questions. First was, what advice could the group give to Tommy? He remembered that Julia had travelled far away and had gained valuable experience. Would that be something for Tommy? Frank posted in the group:

“Tommy will continue his travels from Dublin to a new destination. Julia has some brilliant advice for Tommy. Please share some of your advice so that Tommy can have a great experience.”

And he provided the link which tells the story of Julia’s exciting experience. You can read and listen to it here.

But Frank was also curious to find out what Tommy had been up to in Dublin. He asked Monica a question:

“Monica, did Tommy write a diary or record his adventures in your school?”

Frank also thought about Walter’s comment on finding a travelling partner for Tommy. Who could accompany Tommy? Then, he had an idea. Would a certain “Mr Cuddles” be interested? He sent another message.

“Hi Carolina, Would Mr Cuddles be interested in joining Tommy on a trip? I will explain in a minute.”

About an hour later, Carolina, who lives in Wissembourg, sent her reply.

“Hi Frank, Yes, I think a trip is what Mr. Cuddles needs right now. Lately he has been feeling a little bored and he would like to meet new friends and experience new adventures. What should I pack for him?”

She also sent a picture of Mr Cuddles, lying on the sofa, basking in the sunshine.

“I’m ready for a new adventure” was the caption.

In the meantime, Monica had also replied to Frank’s question.

“We had a penguin who went home with the kids every weekend. We wanted to do the same with Tommy. Unfortunately, with these COVID-19 regulations, we had to stop Tommy’s trips. The penguin also kept a diary with events, activities, drawings and pictures from the families he spent time with. But not Tommy.”

Shortly before 8pm, Frank received another message from Monica.

“Let’s go to Alsace. I have packed Tommy in a nice, cosy box and posted it to Monique and Bernard. Hopefully, he will send a postcard.

A few minutes later, Monique sent a reply:

“Hi together. We are watching out for Tommy’s arrival. We will keep you informed. See you soon.”

Later in the evening, whilst drinking her evening tea, Monica replied to Monique.

“Thank you, Monique. I know Tommy will be in good hands. Have fun.”

Now you know the story of how Tommy travelled from Brida to the Alsace, via Dublin, and possibly, Algeria. And who knows where else he had been?

Monique and Bernard have already started preparing an itinerary for him when he arrives here.

What did Tommy learn in Dublin? Well, apart from improving his English in Monica’s school, making a whole lot of new friends, he also learned that it might be a good idea to write a little diary about his new experiences.

And, I think, Tommy would like to share this with you all when Monique and Bernard and perhaps others, show him the Alsace.

Let’s see what happens, shall we?

Would you like to show Tommy the Alsace and improve your English? Then send Frank a message. Phone 06 01 89 08 04

Tour de France, Stage 12 – Isère.

Geneviève cycles through mountains to show us some breathtaking landscapes.

Welcome to Grand Colombier you leave the Rhône Valley and discover the summit of Grand Colombier, which dominates the valley and Lake Bourget. The area is perfect for outdoor activities such as hiking and biking trails. The Col de Grand Colombier (the pass) is one of the steepest passes in France. It is one of the major stages in the Tour de France. Coming from Bugey, the gradient is 20%.

This is the view from the top, looking down on the river Yenne and onto the village of Culoz.



Bugey has its own AOC wines. There are some 500 hectares of grapes that are used to make red and rosé wines. Activities include dog sledge rides in winter, snowshoe excursions, climbing. In 1999, Bugey started to cultivate truffles. In the 19th century, the truffle rose could be found in the region. Now, a group of mushroom lovers began growing black truffles and selling them in a local truffle market.

Vercors Regional Nature Park

The Nature park straddles two Departments, Drôme and Isère and covers 206.8 ha. It is an alpine landscape and the Grand Veymont rises to an altitude of 2,341 metres. The park is rich with natural treasures, wild and stunning landscapes, limestone cliffs, deep gorges, chasms and caves. Green valleys, mountain pastures and forests. All to impress the tourists and the locals.

In this exceptional area, you find diverse flora and fauna. Many animals live here, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Especially the Alpine ibex, like our friend here. Protected plant species and orchids also grow in this park.

Do outdoor activities in this park and if you are lucky, encounter some local wildlife.



The Route Napoléon is a 325 km long tourist road. It passes through pretty villages and scenic mountain countryside. Napoléon used this road to make his way from Elba back to Paris.

Château de Vizilles is full of history. It was important because the Assembly of the Three Orders of the Dauphiné met there on the 20th July 1788. It became known as the Assembly of Vizilles and was the first step in the events that led to the French Revolution in 1789. This castle was also the summer residence of the French Presidents from 1925 – 1960. Today it houses an interesting museum on French history.

La Tour du Pin is a town located between Lyon and Grenoble. It has been a strategic town since the Gallo Roman era because it is located on the Road connecting Lyon, Vienna and neighbouring Italy. Today, it is possible to admire many architectural remains that trace the entire history of the town.

Villard des Lans

This is a winter and summer sports resort located at the foot of the Grand Moucherolle in the Vercos Regional Nature Park. It is a popular family destination all year round. Many sports activities for children and adults. You can also go to the Heritage House to learn about life in the mountains.

Just a hop, skip and a jump and we will be in Grenoble. See you there.



Hearty Cabanossi Paprika Soup

Ingredients (for 4)	Method
<p>2 cabanossi 3 peppers, red, yellow, green 1 onion 750 ml vegetable stock or clear stock 2 tbsp, heaped tomato purée 1 can tomatoes Salt and pepper paprika powder Garlic 1 pinch sugar</p>	<p>Preparation time approx. 10 minutes Cooking time approx. 20 minutes Total time approx. 30 minutes</p> <p>Clean and chop the onion and peppers, chop the cabanossi and sauté everything in a little oil. Add the chopped tomatoes and tomato paste. Simmer for a moment. Add the stock and simmer for 15 minutes. Add a pinch of sugar.</p> <p>If necessary, add a little more water if it boils down too much. Then season with salt, pepper, garlic and paprika to taste.</p> <p>The soup can also be spiced up with pineapple or mandarins.</p> <p>If you like it a little crunchier, you can also use additional courgettes.</p> <p>Ciabatta or baguette go well with it.</p>



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Gray Hair Cost Her Her Job!

She was willing and capable, but gray hair made her look old and slow. "A younger woman would work more snappily," was the verdict.

Gray hair *does* make a person look old, but gray hair is an unnecessary burden. Today, many women—and men—know that a mixture of sage tea and sulphur actually restores gray, faded or streaked hair to its original life and color. You can either prepare the mixture at home yourself, or more conveniently, buy it already prepared and ready to use. All druggists carry it in the form of Wyeth's Sage & Sulphur, and since the cost is only 75c a bottle, there is really no need to prepare it yourself. You simply moisten a comb or soft brush with it and draw it through your hair, one strand at a time. One application banishes the gray and one or two more completely restore your hair to its original color, so evenly, so naturally that no one can possibly tell you have used it.



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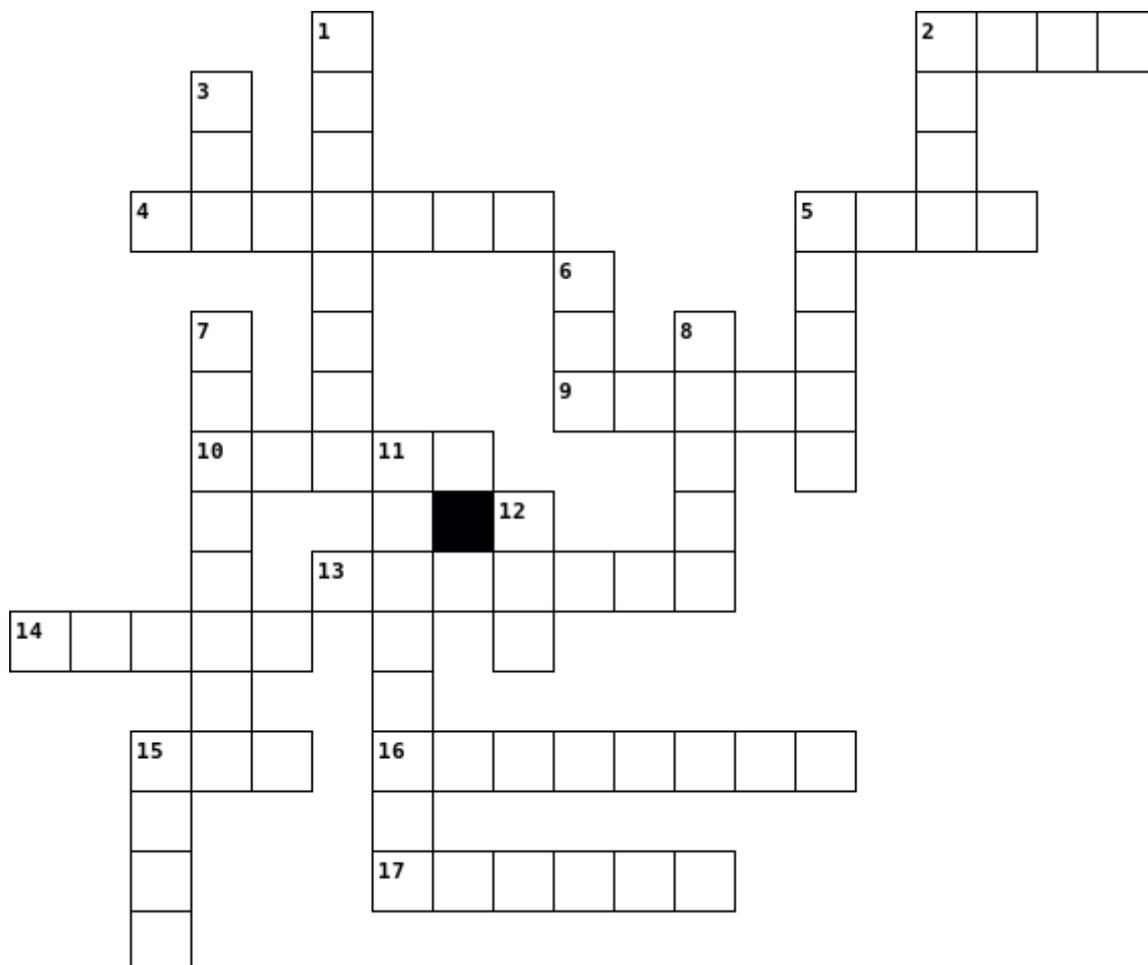
HOME REMEDIES FOR GRAY HAIR



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The Crossword



Across

2. Young future producer of wool, unless eaten first.
4. Birds found on the coast.
5. When we eat it, it is usually in a tin.
9. Biggest fish in the sea.
10. Delivers babies.
13. Has a long neck.
14. It produces edible ink for pasta and bread rolls.
15. Man's best friend.
16. Has a long trunk.
17. Delivers easter eggs.

Down

1. Only lives in Australia.
2. King of all beasts.
3. Wildly attracted to flowers.
5. A cat only found in India.
6. Giver of meat and milk.
7. An insect, a nuisance and stings us.
8. The bird on the American emblem.
11. Pulls the sleigh at Christmas.
12. Most photographed animal on social media.
15. An extinct bird.

Solution 10/21**Across**

1. Enjoy.
4. Exquisite.
5. Warm.
10. relax.
11. Admire.
12. Adventure.
14. Temptation.
15. Fun.
16. wave.
18. smile.
19. harmony.

Down

2. optimist.
3. hug.
6. charming.
7. treat.
8. deserve.
9. happy.
13. enthusiasm.
16. wow.
17. present.

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for learners of English
by learners of English.

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The journal's website is www.journal.brida.eu.

The journal's email address is daily@brida.eu

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