It's Saturday evening. Mr and Mrs Phillips and their children, Roger and Helen, are playing cards in the living room. Suddenly the telephone rings in the hall. Mr Phillips gets up and answers it. When he comes back he is smiling.

“That was your Aunt Elizabeth. She’s back from Greenland. She's coming to see us tomorrow morning. And she's got a surprise for you two.”

“A surprise for us! What is it?” Roger and Helen shout.
“I don't know,” says their dad. “She says that it's a secret. And now it's time for bed.”
“Come on, dad, one more game.”
“Oh, okay. Then straight to bed!”

**Glossary**
- **she’s back**: she is home
- **suddenly**: that happens quickly when you don’t expect it
- **surprise**: something you are not expecting
The next morning the doorbell rings. Roger and Helen run to open the door. It’s Aunt Elizabeth, and she’s got a big metal box. She hugs the children. Then she opens the box very carefully. It’s full of small pieces of ice. She puts her hand into the ice and she slowly takes out a big egg. “This egg is from an ice cave in Greenland. It’s very special. Now I need your help.”

“What do you want us to do?” ask the children.

“I want to see what happens when we put the egg in a warm place. There is no heating in my office at the museum during the summer,” says Aunt Elizabeth. “I thought I could leave it here.”

“Yippee! An experiment!” shout the children. They get a cardboard box and put the egg inside. Then they put the box next to the radiator in the kitchen.

**Glossary**

- **hugs**: puts her arms around in a friendly way
- **museum**: place with lots of very old and precious objects
- **radiator**: heater, usually fixed to a wall (see page 11)
Aunt Elizabeth comes to check the egg every day but nothing happens. Then, one day while the children are having their breakfast they hear a noise.


“No, it isn’t,” answers Helen. “It hasn’t got any feathers.”

“Of course it’s a bird, stupid. Baby birds haven’t got feathers.” The animal opens its beak.

“Let’s give it a sausage,” says Roger. Helen gives a sausage to the animal. The animal is very hungry. It eats five sausages, two cooked tomatoes and six pieces of toast.
After Reading

1 Read Helen’s email to a friend and choose the correct word for each space.

Hi Anna,

You’ll never guess what! You know my aunt Elizabeth likes travelling? This time she (a) ............ to Greenland and she found a huge (b) ............ in an ice cave there. She brought it back to England and she gave it to us. We put the egg in a cardboard box (c) ............ the radiator. A few days later a bird came out of the egg. But it’s not an ordinary bird. It’s a pterodactyl!!! He’s very sweet. We call him Dacty. There’s a problem! He gets (d) ............ every day. Now he is too big for the house. Mum (e) ............ him flying around and yesterday, he (f) ............ his wing. He banged it on (g) ............ furniture. He doesn’t want to go outside. It’s too (h) ............ .

Come and see him sometime.

Love Helen

(a) 1 go 2 went 3 goes
(b) 1 dinosaur 2 sausage 3 egg
(c) 1 on 2 next to 3 in
(d) 1 bigger 2 the biggest 3 big
(e) 1 likes 2 doesn’t like 3 liked
(f) 1 hurt 2 broke 3 hurts
(g) 1 a 2 an 3 the
(h) 1 cold 2 hot 3 far
2 Look at the pictures. Write what is happening.

a) ![Picture 1]

b) ![Picture 2]

c) ![Picture 3]

d) ![Picture 4]

3 Complete the summary of the story. Use the past simple of the verbs in the box.

- be (x2)
- take
- stop
- fly
- enter
- give
- try
- come
- call
- hurt
- find

a) Aunt Elizabeth ............ an egg in an ice cave in Greenland and she ............ it to Helen and Roger to look after.

b) Inside the egg, there ............ a baby pterodactyl. They ............ it Dacty.

c) Dacty ............ around the house and he ............ his wing.

d) Aunt Elizabeth ............ home and she ............ Dacty to the museum.

e) One night some thieves ............ the museum. They ............ to steal some gold medallions but Dacty ............ them. Dacty ............ a hero.