



VERB + TO or ING: READING EXERCISE

Complete the text using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

Farmer Jones met Jane when he was just a young man. He couldn't help _____ (1 fall) in love with her immediately and asked her to marry him. She said yes although she knew it would mean _____ (2 get) up early to milk the cows for the rest of her life.

"Love means never _____ (3 have) to get up early to milk the cows", said Farmer Jones, and explained that he would continue _____ (4 get) up early to milk the cows so Jane could sleep late every day.

Everything went well until they tried _____ (5 increase) their profits by buying some chickens. The first night, a fox ate one of the chickens. Farmer Jones decided _____ (6 build) a fence to protect the chickens. But the ground was too hard so he couldn't. He tried _____ (7 use) an axe to break the ground but it was much too hard. So he went to the local shop and tried _____ (8 buy) a gun. But he didn't have any identification so he couldn't buy one. He tried _____ (9 borrow) one from his neighbours but they were all worried about the fox too.

"I regret not _____ (10 buy) one when I had those rabbit problems", he told Jane. So Jane went to the shop and bought a gun. That night she tried _____ (11 stop) the fox. At first she tried _____ (12 scare) the fox by shooting into the air but it didn't work. So she tried _____ (13 hit) the fox but she missed. She called her husband and he ran after the fox to try _____ (14 catch) it but he wasn't fast enough. They tried _____ (15 shout) at the fox and they tried _____ (16 throw) things at it

and they tried _____ (17 leave) other food for the fox but nothing worked.

Soon they had only 1 chicken left. They tried _____ (18 ask) their neighbours for help and one of their neighbours told them to try _____ (19 put) tiger dung on the ground. So they went to the local zoo to try _____ (20 buy) some tiger dung. They put the dung on the ground and they never saw the fox again.

After you complete the text, read it again and answer the following questions, giving reasons and support to your answers

1. Does Jane ask for a divorce because of the smell?

2. Does it scare the chicken?

3. Do they buy more chickens?

4. Can you think of a better ending to the story?

