

### Activity 3: If Animals Could Talk

EXTRACT - Read the extract starting on p193 'Thanks to the weather' to the end of the chapter on p198.

Blossom and Jack have a gobstopper that gives them the ability to speak to and understand animals. Wow! How cool is that?!

*Which animals would you talk to? What would you ask them?*

Let's practise writing some dialogue sentences by imagining you were overhearing an animal conversation. It can be a funny or serious conversation. Its up to your imagination.

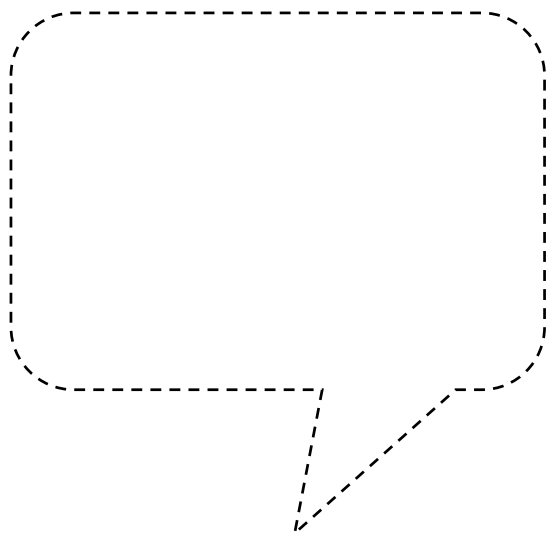
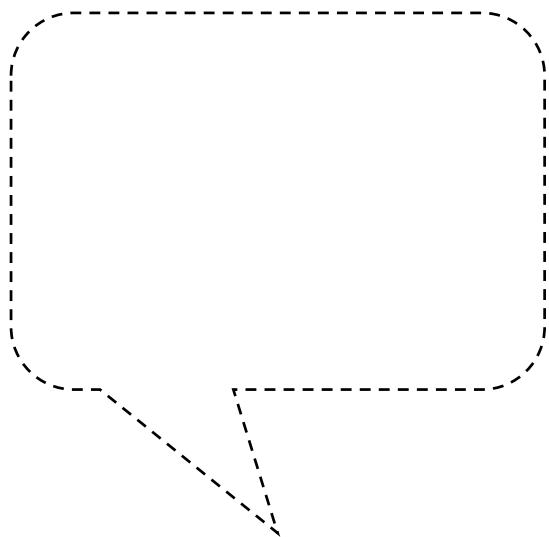
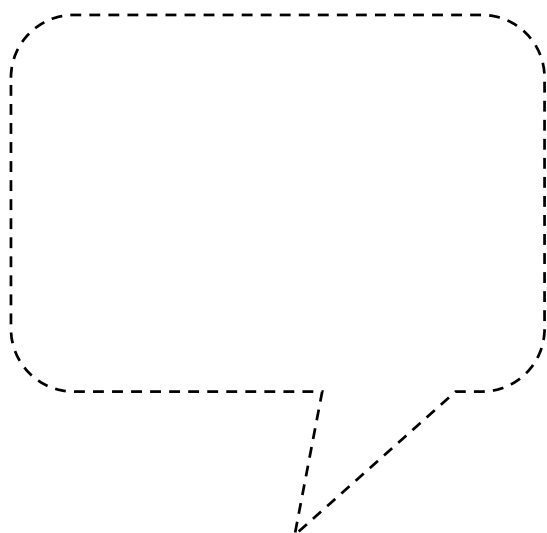
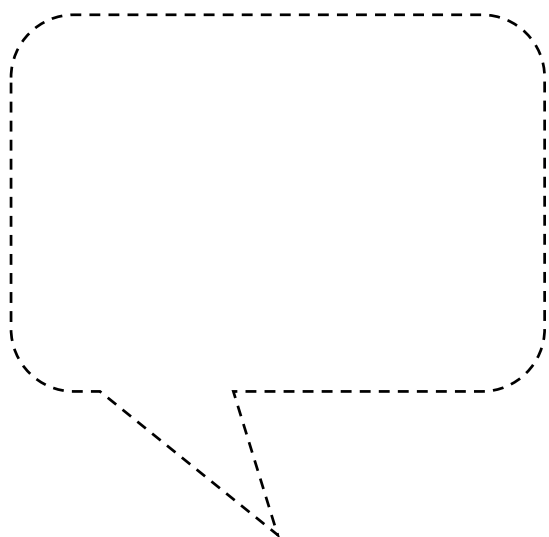
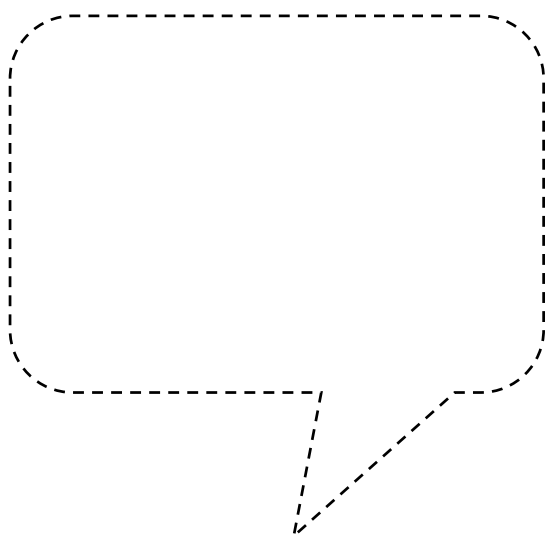
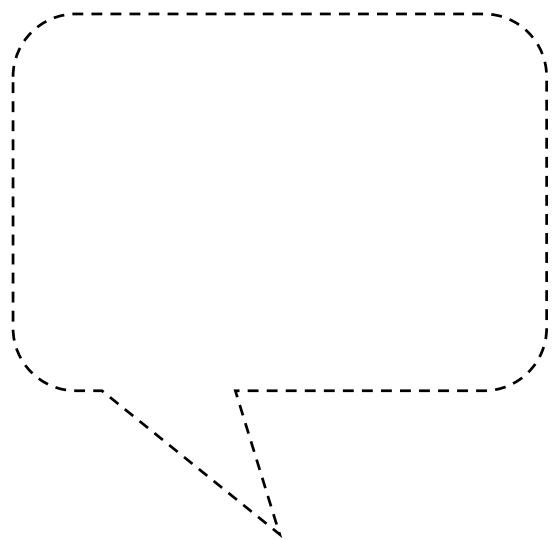
Firstly, you need a picture of two or more animals together. You might take a photograph of some animals you may see while you are on a walk, or find some wilder animal photographs online.

Use the speech bubbles to add their conversations:

Don't go too fast little ones!



Let's go, go, go guys!



What goes inside the SPEECH BUBBLES is now what goes inside the **SPEECH MARKS** (or inverted commas. This includes **the punctuation**).

“Don’t go too fast little ones!”

This is followed by a reporting clause. It tells us who said it. It includes a **verb** and a **noun or noun phrase**.

“Don’t go too fast little ones!” **said the mother duck**.

You can change the verb said for a verb that shows how the speaker is talking, such as shouted, screamed, laughed, scoffed, mocked, whispered etc...

Try adding an **adverb** to describe a little more how they are talking. It can go in different places:

“Don’t go too fast little ones!” **said the mother duck softly**.

“Don’t go too fast little ones!” **softly said the mother duck**.

For the reply from the other animal, the new speaker needs a new line.

### Dialogue challenges:

- Try expanding the noun phrase in the reporting clause using **WITH**:

“Don’t go too fast little ones!” **said the mother duck softly with a protective smile.**

- Try putting the reporting clause at the beginning of the sentence.

**The mother duck softly said** “Don’t go too fast little ones!”

- For a tricky challenge, split the dialogue with the reporting clause in the middle. Punctuation is important here. Try splitting a compound sentence just before the conjunction (such as AND, BUT, SO)

“Don’t go too fast little ones!” **the mother duck softly said,**  
“and wait for me!”