

## Viral sensation Doggface on the video that gave 2020 some joy

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

Put these internet video topics in order from 1 (the one you like the most) to 5 (the one you like the least).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a. cute animal videos
2. \_\_\_\_\_ b. music videos
3. \_\_\_\_\_ c. car videos
4. \_\_\_\_\_ d. videos of exotic places
5. \_\_\_\_\_ e. sports videos

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

brighten up

trailer

longboard

viral

shift

1. If an internet video goes \_\_\_\_\_, it is watched by a very large number of people in a short space of time. (para 1)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a piece of sports equipment similar to a skateboard but longer. (para 1)
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you make it more cheerful or colourful. (para 2)
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an American English word for a caravan used as a home. (para 3)
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a period of work time in a factory, hospital or other place where some people work during the day and some work at night. (para 3)

insane

delete

outcome

beanie

clip

6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ a video, photo or document, you remove it from a computer, tablet etc. (para 3)
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a short part of a film or video. (para 3)
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small round hat that fits tightly to your head. (para 5)
9. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is very stupid or crazy. (para 6)
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the final result of a process. (para 11)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where did Nathan Apodaca work until a few weeks ago?
2. What was he drinking in the video?
3. How many people have viewed his video?
4. How many likes has the video received on TikTok?
5. What does he plan to do with the money he has earned from the video?
6. How long does the video clip last?

## Viral sensation Doggface on the video that gave 2020 some joy

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 'I'm just coasting': viral sensation Doggface on the video that gave 2020 some joy

Max Benwell

23 October, 2020

- 1 A few weeks ago, Nathan Apodaca was working in a potato factory in Idaho – but then his life changed with a TikTok video. If you don't know who he is, watch the viral video of him longboarding to Fleetwood Mac's song "Dreams" while drinking a bottle of cranberry juice.
- 2 2020 has been a difficult year, but Nathan's video has brightened up the internet. His video has been viewed more than 60 million times and received more than ten million likes on TikTok. Within days, the juice company sent him a new truck. A fund raised more than \$10k for him. He's now planning to buy a house.
- 3 On the morning Nathan made the video, he was driving to work from his trailer. Then his car broke down, so he had to go to work on his longboard. He arrived only a few minutes before the start of his shift at his local potato factory. He said he thought about deleting the video clip because phones are prohibited in the factory. But he decided to post the clip on TikTok. By the end of his second break, it already had two million views.
- 4 On the one hand, you have the American dream in a 25-second clip. But on the other hand, you have a story of how difficult life can be for so many Americans.
- 5 Nathan already had a small following on TikTok before his big hit and sold beanies with his Doggface logo on. Now he has his own official Halloween costume that's selling on his site at \$68. What is it like to become famous so suddenly? I spoke to Nathan to find out.
- 6 **Tell me about your emotional journey starting from when you made the video. It seems like that was a pretty bad day to start with.**  
It was just a normal day. My car broke down almost every other day. So that's why it was so easy for me to get my board, get my juice and just go. Things happen. And everything worked perfectly: the song, the scenery, everything just worked. It was perfect. I posted it and didn't think it was going to go viral, but I'm thankful that it did. Because of the video, I was able to get a new car and truck. It was just insane.
- 7 **What's been the best part so far?**  
The reaction I've been getting from everybody, the love and seeing everyone copying it.
- 8 **Have there been any bad parts?**  
I've been getting some hate comments and people saying they don't understand it. But I always just live my life in a relaxed way.
- 9 **What was your life like before this? And with your sudden fame, do you feel like your life has changed a lot?**  
I feel the same. I have no problem going back to work at the warehouse. That's what I do. I'm a worker. I've always worked.
- 10 **There are a lot of people who have seen your video and have similar problems to the ones you had in your life. What would you like to say to them?**  
Everywhere everybody has their own problems, but there are always people you can ask for help.
- 11 **What's your dream outcome from all of this?**  
I just really want to be able to have a house for me and my family, and to be able to get a house for my mum. And then just live life and relax. If I'm still doing videos, that's cool. There's a lot of things out there that I'm trying to do so I don't have to go back to the warehouse. But like I said, if it happens, it happens.

© Guardian News and Media 2020

First published in *The Guardian*, 23/10/20

## Viral sensation Doggface on the video that gave 2020 some joy

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- |                                                        |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Nathan Apodaca was going to work on a longboard ... | a. ... the reaction he's been getting from everybody. |
| 2. He uploaded the video clip to TikTok ...            | b. ... two million people had watched his video clip. |
| 3. By the time his second break was over, ...          | c. ... because his car had broken down.               |
| 4. It was a normal day for Apodaca because ...         | d. ... to be able to buy a house for his family.      |
| 5. He says that the best thing for him is ...          | e. ... his car broke down almost every day.           |
| 6. His dream outcome is ...                            | f. ... just before he started work.                   |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- the one on hand
- the hand but other on
- other almost day every
- than times more million sixty
- prohibited are factory in the phones
- who if you know is don't he

#### 6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. potato    | a. day     |
| 2. cranberry | b. hit     |
| 3. big       | c. comment |
| 4. viral     | d. juice   |
| 5. normal    | e. video   |
| 6. hate      | f. factory |

## Viral sensation Doggface on the video that gave 2020 some joy

Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

### 7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their word stress.

thankful  
within

insane  
delete

viral  
costume

receive  
relaxed

happen  
find out

comment  
warehouse

| A o o | B o o |
|-------|-------|
|       |       |

### 8 Discussion

If you could make a video clip that 60 million people would watch, what topic would you choose and why?