

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

### Level 2 • Upper 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 are given to help you.

merchandise  
delete

embroidery  
beanie

commute  
clip

viral  
shift

longboard  
charts

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. The \_\_\_\_\_ are lists that show which pieces of music have sold the most copies during the previous week. (para 2)
4. When people \_\_\_\_\_, they travel regularly to and from work. (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)
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. \_\_\_\_\_ is the activity of decorating cloth with coloured stitches. (para 5)
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small round hat that fits tightly to your head. (para 5)
10. Branded products that are used to promote someone or something are known as \_\_\_\_\_. (para 5)

#### 3 Find the information

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

1. How many people have viewed Nathan Apodaca's video?
2. What was he drinking in the video?
3. How many likes has the video received on TikTok?
4. What does he plan to do with the money he has earned from the video?
5. How long does the video clip last?
6. What did Apodaca teach himself?

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

### Level 2 • Upper 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 single TikTok video. If you don't know who he is, you need to watch the viral video of him longboarding to Fleetwood Mac's song "Dreams" while drinking a bottle of cranberry juice.
- 2 In a year as difficult as 2020, Nathan's video brightened up the internet. His video has been viewed more than 60m times, and received more than 10m likes on TikTok. Within days, the juice company sent him a new truck. A fund set up for him raised more than \$10k. The song "Dreams" re-entered the music charts. He's now planning to buy a house.
- 3 On the morning Nathan made the video, he was commuting from his trailer, where he's been dealing with power cuts. Then his car broke down, which forced him 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 considered deleting the clip, especially as phones are prohibited in the factory. But he decided to upload the clip. By the end of his second break, it already had 2m views.
- 4 On the one hand, you have the American dream in a 25-second video 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 had taught himself embroidery on dollar-store beanies so he could sell his merchandise with his Doggface logo on. Now he has his own official Halloween costume that's selling on his site at \$68. What is becoming famous so suddenly like? 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 regular 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. Let's just figure it out. And everything worked perfectly: the song, the scenery, everything just came together. It was perfect. I posted it and didn't think it was going to go viral, but I'm thankful that it did. I was able to get a car and truck out of this. It was just insane.
- 7 **What's been the best part so far?**  
Honestly, just the reaction I've been getting from everybody, the love and parodies and seeing everyone doing it.
- 8 **Have there been any bad parts?**  
I've been getting some hate comments, people saying they don't understand it. But I always just live my life on the coast, you know?  
Just coasting.
- 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 the warehouse and working. That's what I do. I'm a worker. I've always worked.
- 10 **There are a lot of people out there who have seen your video who are probably having similar problems to the ones you were facing in your life. Is there anything you'd say to them, now that so much has changed for you?**  
Everywhere everybody has their own problems, and there are things you can do to get yourself out of it. There are always people you can ask for help.
- 11 **What's your dream outcome from all of this?**  
To be honest, I just really want to be able to have a house for me and my family, and to be able to get my mum a house. And then basically, just live life and relax. If I'm still doing videos, that's cool. There are 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 2 • Upper intermediate

#### 4 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. Nathan Apodaca was going to work on a longboard because his car had broken down.
2. He is still working at the potato factory.
3. He uploaded the video after he had finished work.
4. Apodaca has his own website.
5. He hasn't received any negative comments about his video.
6. Now he just wants to relax.

#### 5 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

1. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *make something more cheerful or colourful* (para 2)
2. a noun meaning *a large road vehicle used for carrying goods* (para 2)
3. an American English noun meaning *a caravan used as a permanent home* (para 3)
4. a two-word phrasal verb meaning (of a car or other vehicle) *stop working* (para 3)
5. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *be able to solve a problem* (para 6)
6. an adjective meaning *very stupid or crazy* (para 6)
7. a noun meaning *a copy of something that makes people laugh* (para 7)
8. a verb meaning *do something or happen in a way that is not planned* (para 8)

#### 6 Two-word phrases

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

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. viral     | a. factory |
| 2. raise     | b. video   |
| 3. power     | c. clip    |
| 4. local     | d. juice   |
| 5. cranberry | e. money   |
| 6. video     | f. cut     |

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

### Level 2 • Upper intermediate

#### 7 Phrases with prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

in

to

at

on

by

in

1. his shift \_\_\_\_\_ a factory
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the one hand
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a video clip
4. face problems \_\_\_\_\_ your life
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the end of his second break
6. similar \_\_\_\_\_ something

#### 8 Discussion

Discuss the statements.

- It's crazy that someone can make so much money from a video.
- 2020 has been the worst year for hundreds of years.