An E-mail from Jan

From: Jan
To: Yoli
CC:
Subject: a misadventure

Hey Yoli:

I’m really sorry, but I have to postpone our afternoon adventure. Even if I’d had more foresight, I would never have predicted what happened this morning.

I was in the kitchen with my mother, reading a book as she prepared my breakfast. Suddenly, Scout (my dog) started barking at something in the backyard. Afterward, I wished I had had the forethought to check what was bothering him first. But I was preoccupied with the book I was reading, so I just let him out and got back to my book.

Within a few seconds, we heard a loud yelp. Soon, the unmistakable odor of skunk had wafted into the house and Scout was whimpering at the back door. Sure enough, he had been sprayed! My mom freaked out! She said that since I had allowed this to happen, it was partly my responsibility to clean him up. She went to the computer and looked up what to do about a dog that has been sprayed by a skunk.

The preliminary step was to use paper towels to wipe off as much of the oily spray as possible. Next, we had to prepare a solution of baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, and dish soap mixed with water and then bathe him with this mixture—twice!

Scout wasn’t too happy about this, and neither was I. But he doesn’t smell so bad now, though I guess it will be several weeks before the odor goes away completely. At least the spray didn’t get into his eyes, which can have bad aftereffects.

Anyway, this took ages, and now there is not enough time for us to get together. So, can you reschedule for next week? I promise to keep a sharp eye on Scout until then!

Jan