What are the St. Bernard dogs used for?

The Great St. Bernard Pass connects Switzerland to Italy.

At 2,473 meters, it is the highest mountain pass in Europe.

The famous monastery of St. Bernard, which was founded in the eleventh century, lies about a mile away.

For hundreds of years, St. Bernard dogs have saved the lives of travellers crossing the dangerous Pass.

These friendly dogs, which were first brought from Asia, were used as watchdogs even in Roman times.

Now that a tunnel has been built through the mountains, the Pass is less dangerous, but each year, the dogs are still sent out into the snow whenever a traveller is in difficulty.

Despite the new tunnel, there are still a few people who rashly attempt to cross the Pass on foot.

During the summer months, the monastery is very busy, for it is visited by thousands of people who cross the Pass in cars.

As there are so many people about, the dogs have to be kept in a special enclosure.

In winter, however, life at the monastery is quite different.

The temperature drops to -30°, and very few people attempt to cross the Pass.

The monks prefer winter to summer, for they have more privacy.

The dogs have greater freedom, too, for they are allowed to wander outside their enclosure.

The only regular visitors to the monastery in winter are parties of skiers who go there at Christmas and Easter.

These young people, who love the peace of the mountains, always receive a warm welcome at St. Bernard's monastery.

The St. Bernard's Pass is visited by thousands of people in summer, who cross the Pass in cars.

Because there are so many people about, the dogs are kept in a special enclosure.

As the temperature in winter falls to -30°, there are few visitors, so the monks prefer this season.

The dogs are also free to wander outside their enclosure.

Parties of young skiers regularly visit the monastery in winter, during Christmas and Easter, when they are warmly welcomed.

One very cold morning, a monk took two St. Bernard's dogs out for exercise.

He immediately noticed that the dogs were very restless.

Suspecting a traveler might be in difficulty, the monk returned to the monastery to organize a search party.

The two dogs led four monks through the snow.

Two of the monks pulled a sledge behind them, in case they needed it.

There had been very high winds the previous night, but now everything was still, and visibility was bad because there was a heavy fog.

Moreover, the temperature had fallen to -20°.

The dogs led the monks towards the Pass, and as the monks got near, they heard cries in the distance.

The dogs soon found a man who was trapped under the snow and immediately dragged him out.

The man was alive, but frozen stiff.

The monks strapped him to the sledge and took him back to the monastery.

The man was unconscious, but he soon recovered in the warm atmosphere of the monastery, where he was given plenty of hot drinks and food.

When the traveler was able to speak, the monks listened with interest as he told them what had happened the previous night.

I first met Harry fourteen years ago.

I once stayed in Zurich for six months when I was a student.

When I got home, I found an urgent message on my answering machine.

Now that he's grown up, he does whatever he pleases.

Whenever I telephone, the line's engaged.

Whoever told you that didn't know what he was talking about.

I first met Harry fourteen years ago.

I once stayed in Zurich for six months when I was a student.

When I got home, I found an urgent message on my answering machine.

I haven't seen Harry since 1988.

He did what I asked him to do.

He did whatever I asked him to do.

Who told you that?

Whoever told you that?

I'll tell you when you make a mistake.

I'll tell you whenever you make a mistake.

Where has he gone?

Wherever has he gone?

St. Bernard dogs are best known for being able to search people out who have been trapped in the snow.

What is the main advantage of the new tunnel? It provides a fast and safe communication across the Swiss-Italian border.

In what way does life at the St. Bernard monastery differ in winter? The monks can pursue their occupation relatively undisturbed.

A few people who are rash enough to cross the Pass on foot.

With so many people around, the dogs have to be kept in an enclosure.

The monks let them wander outside their enclosure.

Parties of skiers visit the monastery in winter.

The great St. Bernard Pass lies between Switzerland and Italy.

The dogs are sent out into the snow if ever a traveler is in difficulty.

Thousands of people drive over the Pass.

They are allowed to roam outside their enclosure.