

Grade 8 Unit 2

1

What does the zookeeper say?

First, read the questions and answers below.

Then, listen to Ali interviewing the zookeeper for the ITC magazine and tick the box with the right answer.

Why does he like interviews?

- ☐ He used to interview people himself.
- ☐ He has lots of time for interviews.
- ☐ He used to work for a conservation group.

1



What were zoos like 35 years ago?

- ☐ They used to be the same as a circus.
- ☐ They used to entertain people.
- ☐ They used to kill animals.

2

How did he travel around the zoo before?

- ☐ He used to ride a bicycle.
- ☐ He used to have a motorbike.
- ☐ He used to walk.

3



How did he feed the animals 35 years ago?

- ☐ He used to hide the food.
- ☐ He used to throw the food in the cages.
- ☐ He used to hunt the food in the wild.

4

What did he like most about his job before the reptiles?

- ☐ He used to like centipedes.
- ☐ He used to like reptiles.
- ☐ He used to like elephants.

5



1 Clap and choose.

Work in pairs. Point to a group of three words and clap the syllables for one of the words. Your partner should listen and name the word. Then change over.

elephant

mouse

giraffe

hippo

crocodile

snake

excellent

good

alright

strong

endangered

lonely

tiny

enormous

big

clever

expensive

rare



2

Think and write.

Look at the adjectives and write the comparative for each adjective under the correct rule.

big cold hungry fast lonely hot

large noisy tall wide rare thin

If the adjective has:

comparatives

one syllable and ends with **-e**, then we add **-r**.

one syllable, one vowel and ends with a consonant, then we double the consonant and add **-er**.

one vowel and ends with more than one consonant, then we add **-er**.

two syllables and ends with **-y**, then we take away the **y** and add **-ier**.



3**Sounds – /ə/.**

Listen to the words and underline the /ə/ sound.

teacher

zookeeper

tiger

crocodile

China

vegetation

/ə/

Now read the words again and think about these questions.

1. How can you spell the /ə/ sound?
2. Is the /ə/ sound usually a strong stress or a weak stress?

1**More comparatives and superlatives.**

Some ITC members were discussing a visit to the zoo. Read the speech bubbles to find out what they said and underline the comparatives and superlatives. Then, complete the language focus box by writing *most*, *least*, *than*, *less*, *more* and *the* in the correct spaces.

language focus
comparatives and superlatives

For adjectives with 3 or more syllables and adjectives ending with 'ing':

_____ or _____ + adjective + _____
to form *the comparative*.

_____ + _____ or _____ + adjective
to form *the superlative*.

I think monkeys
are less exciting
than crocodiles.

Parrots are more
colourful than
eagles.

I think zebras
are the most
beautiful animals.

What do you think
are the least
interesting animals?



2**Write.**

Use the words provided to write two comparative sentences and two superlative sentences for each group of words. The first one has been done for you.

horses
boring
zebras

1

Horses are more boring than zebras.

Zebras are less boring than horses.

Horses are the most boring.

Zebras are the least boring.

dinosaurs
amazing
frogs

2

elephants
expensive
hippos

3



1

What did they say?

Read the statements below carefully. Then, listen to the animals discussing who should leave the zoo and circle true (T) or false (F).

1

The lion should leave because it is the most expensive to keep.

T / F**2**

The shrew should stay because it is rare.

T / F**3**

The crocodile should leave because it is always under water.

T / F**4**

The crocodile should leave because it is a prehistoric species.

T / F**5**

The gorilla should leave because it is clever.

T / F

4 Making a difference.

Read Club Talk on page 20 of your Classbook and then circle **True** or **False**.

- a. You can join Greenpeace on the Internet. **True / False**
- b. Greenpeace is a charity. **True / False**
- c. Lifewatch is part of London Zoo. **True / False**
- d. Lifewatch conserves the environment. **True / False**
- e. It is free to join the World Wildlife Fund. **True / False**
- f. The World Wildlife Fund started in 1961. **True / False**
- g. The RSPB is a charity that protects animals. **True / False**
- h. People under 18 who like birds can join **True / False**
Wildlife Explorers.
- i. You must have a boat to join **True / False**
Whale Coast Oman.

