

Exercise 4

Read the newspaper article below about dolphins and their relationship with man. Then complete the note-taking exercise which follows.

OUR TRUE FRIEND THE DOLPHIN

The dog may be 'man's best friend' but the sharp-eyed dolphin, with its cheery smile and intuitive intelligence, is the creature we love to love. Whether it's delighting whale-watchers or swimming playfully with scuba divers, the dolphin's ability to delight the world of humans has made it one of our favourites in the animal kingdom.

'Like us, dolphins are great communicators,' says Jo Clark, Conservation Officer for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. They are very social, and communicate through a range of clicks, whistles and calls. Researchers say that each dolphin has its own unique whistle, which may identify it to others.'

Dolphins live in groups and work together to feed and to drive away predators. Orcas, a kind of dolphin known more commonly as killer whales, have strong family bonds and remain together in family groups called pods, which have their own individual language dialect. They are known to pass down knowledge from one generation to the next. Scientists are now suggesting that the only equivalent to the complex and stable relationships in orca groups is found in human societies.

Jo says, 'There are many examples of dolphins forming partnerships with people. For three generations, in Laguna, Brazil, a group of bottlenosed dolphins have been working with fishermen to catch mullet. The dolphins drive the fish towards the fishermen's nets, even signalling with a splash of their tails when the nets should be thrown.'

A particularly dramatic account of dolphins protecting humans from danger was reported by a group of fishermen from South Carolina in the United States in

2001. Their boat sank 50 kilometres from the shore and they found themselves surrounded by mako, hammerhead and tiger sharks. A group of dolphins arrived and set about driving the sharks away. They remained all night and the following day, protecting the fishermen from any sharks that came near.

Witness have also seen dolphins saving people from drowning, when there was no apparent benefit to themselves. We'll never know for certain why dolphins act like this at times. What we do know is that they have to protect their families from attacks by sharks, so it is possible they are acting instinctively when they help people or that they extend their concept of family to include an obviously vulnerable human.

But while dolphins display such loyal feelings towards man, the compassion is unfortunately often one way. Pollution and being drowned in fishing nets are two of the terrible dangers they face from us. Up to 10,000 dolphins and their cousins the porpoises are killed in the North Atlantic each year as a result of the fishing industry. Their habitats are destroyed and they are bombarded by noise. We even capture them and keep them in tanks, in spite of seeing what rich lives these wonderfully intelligently creatures lead in the wild.



You are planning to give a short talk to a wildlife club about people and dolphins.

On the notepad opposite, make **two** short notes under each heading as a plan for your talk. Do not use complete sentences. An example is given under the first heading



PEOPLE AND DOLPHINS

Similarities between people and dolphins

- family structure / live as part of a group
- [1]
- [1]

Practical ways dolphins have helped people

- [1]
- [1]

How people threaten their survival

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[Total: 6]

Exercise 5

Imagine that you have given your talk to the wildlife club. Now you want to make a summary of your talk, to be published on a wildlife internet site.

Look at your notes in Exercise 4 above. Using the ideas in your notes, write a summary describing the ways dolphins and people are similar, and what is known about their impact on each other.

Your summary should be one paragraph of no more than 70 words. You should use your own words as much as you can.

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[Total: 4]