

How to talk about Animal Facts

What are FACTS? → General Characteristics

We can talk about facts in two ways:

- in the plural,
- in the singular.

 **Lions** eat meat.

 **The lions** eat meat.

When we talk in **the plural**, and we are saying something general about the person in the sentence, we **don't need** the word **THE**.

 **The lion** eats meat.

 **A lion** eats meat.

 **Lion** eats meat.

When we talk in **the singular**, and we are saying something general about the person in the sentence, we **need** the word **THE** or **A (AN)**.

Read definition 6 of the word "a" and definition 5 of the word "the":

a  **1** /ə/ strong form /ə/ (also an /ən/ strong form /ən/) **2** /ə/ strong form /ən/ **3** **indef. article** **4** **The** **form an** is used before a vowel sound. **1** one: *A cup of coffee, please.* ◊ We've got **an apple**, **a banana** and **two oranges**. **2** used when you talk about one example of sth for the first time: *I saw a dog chasing a cat this morning. The cat climbed up a tree.* ◊ *Have you got a dictionary* (= any dictionary)? **3** used for saying what kind of person or thing sb/sth is: *He's a doctor.* ◊ *She's a Muslim.* ◊ *You are a clever boy.* ◊ *Is that an eagle?* 'No, it's a falcon.' **4** (used with prices, rates, measurements) each: *I usually drink two litres of water a day.* ◊ *twice a week* ◊ *He was travelling at about 80 miles an hour.* **5** used with some expressions of quantity: *a lot of money* ◊ *a few cars* **6** used when you are talking about a typical example of sth: *An elephant can live for up to eighty years.* **HELP** You can also use the plural in this sense: *Elephants can live for up to eighty years.*

the  **1** /ðə; ði/ strong form /ði:/ **def. article** **1** used for talking about a person or thing that is already known or that has already been mentioned: *I took the children to the dentist.* ◊ *We met the man who bought your house.* ◊ *The milk is in the fridge.* **2** used when there is only one of sth: *The sun is very strong today.* ◊ *Who won the World Cup?* ◊ *the government* **3** used with numbers and dates: *This is the third time I've seen this film.* ◊ *Friday the thirteenth* ◊ *I grew up in the sixties.* **4** used with adjectives to name a group of people: *the French* ◊ **the poor** **5** (formal) used with a SINGULAR noun when you are talking generally about sth: *The dolphin is an intelligent animal.* **6** with units of measurement, meaning 'every': *Our car does forty miles to the gallon.* **7** with musical instruments: *Do you play the piano?* **8** the well-known or important one: *'My best friend at school was Tony Blair.'* *You mean **the** Tony Blair?* **9** the...the... used for saying that the way in which two things change is connected: *The more you eat, the fatter you get.*

So, there are **3 correct ways** to talk about animal facts:

 **1) Lions** eat meat.
Plural Noun



Pay attention to the verbs!
What do you see in "eat"?

 **2) A lion** eats meat.
A / An + singular noun

Remember that the form of the verb changes when you talk about "they" (plural) or "it" (singular).

 **3) The lion** eats meat.
The + singular noun

Activity 1: Read the pairs of sentences and choose the correct option.

(Click on A or B).

- 1) A The giraffes eat plants.
 B Giraffes eat plants.
- 2) A Elephant lives in Africa.
 B The elephant lives in Africa.
- 3) A Meerkats live in the desert.
 B The meerkats live in the desert.
- 4) A The dogs don't climb trees.
 B Dogs don't climb trees.
- 5) A The crocodile lives in salt and freshwater.
 B Crocodile lives in salt and freshwater.

Activity 2: Write 2 FACTS about ONLY ONE animal.

(Write 1 sentence in the plural and 1 sentence in the singular).

Example:

(In the plural) → **Pandas** live in China.
(In the singular) → **The panda** eats a lot of bamboo.

You can watch this video to learn more about pandas:

(Click "Watch on YouTube" and you will have subtitles there).

For other **excellent videos about animals**, go to YouTube and write "**Free School Animals**". The videos are short and they have good subtitles in English.