

## 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** <sup>1</sup> /ə/ strong form et/ (also an /ən/ strong form en/) **indef. article** **1** 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** <sup>1</sup> /ðə/ 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

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

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



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

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



**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.