

FCE Unit 4.1

In this lesson, we will practice skimming and scanning, which are time-saving skills on exam day. Both terms mean that you do not read every word in a text. Rather, to skim, you read a text quickly to get a general idea or the gist without looking at every detail, and to scan, you move your eyes quickly across a text to locate one specific piece of information, such as a date, name, number, or keyword, without reading every word. We will also look at related words, or what Cambridge call “word formation”. And there will be several opportunities to speak your answers to questions.

Let's start with a simple speaking exercise. Look at the pictures of the animals below. Match the name of the animal to its picture, and then answer (orally) the following questions:

- All of the animals—except the tiger shark—**are endangered**. What are some reasons that animals become endangered?
- If you could save *one* of the animals, which would you choose? Why?



- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____

- a) tiger shark
- b) orang-utan
- c) polar bear
- d) snow leopard
- e) thick-billed parrot
- f) koala

The following sentences include words which are used in connection with animals today. Use an English-English dictionary to look up the meaning of the words in **bold** and then match a-e with 1-5.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) Arctic animals are now in danger because of _____ | 1) called habitat destruction . |
| b) Cutting down the trees where animals live is _____ | 2) rising sea levels affecting coastal areas of Bangladesh. |
| c) Many animals suffer when rivers and streams _____ | 3) ice melting due to global warming. |
| d) There are very few Bengal tigers left because of _____ | 4) are polluted by factories. |
| e) Some animals such as the white rhino are _____ | 5) facing extinction because people hunt them for their horns. |

The exercise to the right is similar to an exercise in the exam. Paper 1 Part 7 consists of four to six short texts on the same subject. Read the questions first, so that you know what you are looking for. Then scan the text for the information you need. You will find that some of the texts are quite similar. It is important that you find the information that actually answers the question. Write the letter of the text that answers the question in the space provided.

Which person

- says visitors can decide on the animal they want to support?
- was surprised at first by the absence of some animals?
- says that the zoo was as good as people said it was?
- says that one particular aim of the zoo has succeeded?
- mentions a particular problem which is endangering animals?
- complains about how long it takes to see everything within the zoo?
- was initially unsure about going to a zoo?
- complains about some people's attitude to less familiar species?
- says that after visiting a particular zoo they changed their mind about zoos?
- was unconcerned by the number of visitors at the zoo?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

A Julia

I went to Marwell Zoo with two friends. It has over 200 species of rare animals, from Siberian tigers to white rhino and snow leopards. Personally, the red pandas were my favourites – they're like cuddly teddy bears. The zoo was only started in 1972, with breeding as its objective, and some species, such as the scimitar-horned oryx, which was once extinct in the wild, have been bred so well that they have been re-introduced into the wild. I was initially amazed by the fact that there are no traditional zoo animals like elephants and penguins there. This zoo specialises in keeping rare and endangered species and there is not room or money enough to keep anything just because it happens to be popular.

B Peter

I took the decision to visit San Diego Zoo. It has a huge reputation and I was interested in whether it would live up to it. I wasn't disappointed. The zoo was founded in 1916 and the founders couldn't have picked a better place – benefitting from breezes from the Pacific Ocean, being close to the city but also having wooded canyons. The zoo is home to a huge number of endangered species. However, one problem for the zoo was that the visitors seemed to be mainly interested in the well-known species such as the polar bear and just walked straight past other more endangered but less well-known species like the thick-billed parrot.

C Karin

I was working as a nanny for two sisters in New York last year and I decided to visit the Bronx Zoo. Animals are kept in large, natural enclosures and the zoo is very keen on conservation. You get to go into the largest African rainforest exhibit in the world – and it actually felt like a real rainforest – with lots of different animals like, for example, gorillas. When you come out you are allowed to select which rainforest animal you want your entrance fee to fund. There were crowds of tourists at the zoo when I visited, but the place is so big that it didn't really matter that much. There are a number of inexpensive cafés you can go to, or do as I did and take a picnic.

D Tom

Many species are now endangered because of what is happening to our planet – things like global warming – but some zoos are actually doing something to try to conserve these species. Whipsnade Zoo in England is one of them. I visited it about a month ago when I was backpacking with a friend of my brother's. He's studying zoology at university in Australia. We had a really good time and it was worth every penny. There's a free bus that can take you round all the main sights and I would really recommend you take it. The penguin pool is particularly beautiful as it is on top of a hill and has great views.

E Lara

Last summer, I was staying with my aunt in Toronto and she suggested I take my nine-year-old cousin to the zoo as it was her favourite place. I wasn't certain at first that I wanted to spend a day at a zoo. I guess I had always regarded them as over-priced places with cages and unhappy animals, but Toronto Zoo soon made me think differently! It's quite big – a bit too big if you try to go everywhere, and it's a 20-minute journey getting from one area to another, which is a pain. You absolutely must take a map as well, as it's easy to get lost. I particularly liked the Malayan Woods Pavilion – there is artificial rainfall there, which makes children laugh.

Now, for more speaking practice, answer the following questions:

- Do you think zoos are a good way of saving endangered species? Why? / Why not?
- What do you think of the zoos mentioned in the article?
- Have you ever been to a zoo? What was it like?

Finally, find in the texts words related to those listed below. The text in which it can be found is in parentheses.

There is one example.

example) expensive (C): *inexpensive*

a) tradition (A): _____

b) danger (A): _____

c) decide (B): _____

d) visit (B): _____

e) conserve (C): _____

f) enter (C): _____

g) zoo (D): _____

h) see (D): _____

i) happy (E): _____

j) rain (E): _____