

Endangered Species: The Koala



LISTENING

Listen to the text and fill in the gaps.



- 1) The koala is regarded as the _____
 - a. epitome of coldness
 - b. epitome of cuddly mess
 - c. epitome of cuddling mess
 - d. epitome of cuddliness
- 2) estimates there are somewhere between 43,000-100,000 koalas _____ wild
 - a. left in the
 - b. laughed in the
 - c. loft in the
 - d. lift in the
- 3) dwindling rapidly due to disease, loss of habitat, bushfires, being hit by cars, _____
 - a. and other treats
 - b. and other threatens
 - c. and other threat
 - d. and other threats
- 4) Koalas have gone from no listing to vulnerable to endangered _____
 - a. within a decadence
 - b. within a decades
 - c. within a decade
 - d. within a deck aid
- 5) "sliding toward extinction" unless there are "stronger laws...to protect" _____
 - a. their forest houses
 - b. their forest hones
 - c. their forest homes
 - d. their four rest homes
- 6) It has been featured in advertisements, games, cartoons, and _____
 - a. as tough toys
 - b. as toff toys
 - c. as soft toys
 - d. as sort toys
- 7) by over an estimated billion Australian dollars in 1998, a figure that _____
 - a. has since growth
 - b. has since growing
 - c. has since grown
 - d. has since growl
- 8) Despite this, efforts to protect the koala _____
 - a. have been feeling
 - b. have been foiling
 - c. have been felling
 - d. have been failing
- 9) that it is "vulnerable to climate change" _____
 - a. and two disease
 - b. and to disease
 - c. and too disease
 - d. and tooth disease
- 10) the 2019-2020 bushfires, which killed at least 6,400 of the animals, were " _____"
 - a. a tipping point
 - b. a tip pin point
 - c. a tip ping point
 - d. a teepee point

VOCABULARY

Draw a line to the correct definition.

Paragraph 1

1. regarded

• The state or process of dying or dying out as a species.

2. epitome

• Considered or thought of in a specified way.

3. marsupial

• A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger.

4. dwindling

• A person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type.

5. threat

• Going down in number.

6. vulnerable

• A mammal found mainly in Australia. The mothers carry her young in a pouch.

7. extinction

• In need of special care, support, or protection.

Paragraph 2

8. significance

• The quality of being worthy of attention; importance.

9. draw

• The time at which a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change.

10. featured

• A person or thing that is very attractive or interesting.

11. estimated

• A fire in a forest.

12. figure

• Be a significant characteristic of or take an important part in.

13. bushfire

• Roughly calculated or judged the value, number, quantity, or extent of.

14. tipping point

• A number, especially one which forms part of official statistics.

Endangered Species: The Koala

Now, read the article that you have just listened to:

The koala is regarded as the epitome of cuddliness. However, animal lovers will be saddened to hear that this lovable marsupial has been moved to the endangered species list. The Australian Koala Foundation estimates there are somewhere between 43,000-100,000 koalas left in the wild. Their numbers have been dwindling rapidly due to disease, loss of habitat, bushfires, being hit by cars, and other threats. Stuart Blanch from the World Wildlife Fund in Australia said: "Koalas have gone from no listing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade. That is a shockingly fast decline." He added that koalas risk "sliding toward extinction" unless there are "stronger laws...to protect their forest homes".

The koala has huge cultural significance for Australia. Wikipedia writes: "The koala is well known worldwide and is a major draw for Australian zoos and wildlife parks. It has been featured in advertisements, games, cartoons, and as soft toys. It benefited the national tourism industry by over an estimated billion Australian dollars in 1998, a figure that has since grown." Despite this, efforts to protect the koala have been failing. Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said there have been "many pressures on the koala," and that it is "vulnerable to climate change and to disease". She said the 2019-2020 bushfires, which killed at least 6,400 of the animals, were "a tipping point".

TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if 1-8 below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says koala epitomise cuddliness.	T / F
2. There could be as few as 143,000 koalas left in the wild.	T / F
3. Traffic accidents are one reason for the decline in koala numbers.	T / F
4. The WWF says Australia needs stronger laws to protect koalas.	T / F
5. Wikipedia says koalas can draw things.	T / F
6. Koalas were worth a billion dollars to Australia's economy last year.	T / F
7. An environment minister said protection efforts have been working.	T / F
8. Deaths due to bushfires were a tipping point for the koala.	T / F

COMPREHENSION

Answer the questions in the blanks below, using full sentences.

1. What does the article say koalas are the epitome of?
2. What is the most pessimistic estimate of the numbers of wild koalas?
3. What are koalas being hit by?
4. Within what timeframe have koalas gone from no listing to endangered?
5. What did the WWF say koalas are sliding towards?
6. What did Wikipedia say koalas were a major draw for?
7. When did koalas bring in a billion dollars for Australia?
8. What have efforts to protect koalas been doing?
9. Who is Sussan Ley?
10. What were recent bushfires that killed koalas described as?

SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

1. regarded	• attraction
2. lovable	• falling
3. estimates	• wiped out
4. dwindling	• reckons
5. extinction	• boosted
6. draw	• adorable
7. benefited	• in danger
8. pressures	• dying out
9. vulnerable	• considered
10. killed	• strain

PHRASE MATCH:

Draw a line to the phrase that best completes it (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.).

• The koala is regarded as the epitome	• to endangered
• animal lovers will be saddened	• to climate change
• Their numbers have been dwindling	• toward extinction
• gone from no listing to vulnerable	• industry
• koalas risk sliding	• of cuddliness
• cultural	• Australian zoos
• a major draw for	• rapidly
• It benefited the national tourism	• point
• it is vulnerable	• to hear that
• a tipping	• significance

GAP FILL - Choose a Word

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

vulnerable

epitome

forest

habitat

decline

lovable

threats

estimates

The koala is regarded as the (1) _____ of cuddliness. However, animal lovers will be saddened to hear that this (2) _____ marsupial has been moved to the endangered species list. The Australian Koala Foundation (3) _____ there are somewhere between 43,000-100,000 koalas left in the wild. Their numbers have been dwindling rapidly due to disease, loss of (4) _____, bushfires, being hit by cars, and other (5) _____. Stuart Blanch from the World Wildlife Fund in Australia said: "Koalas have gone from no listing to (6) _____ to endangered within a decade. That is a shockingly fast (7) _____. He added that koalas risk "sliding toward extinction" unless there are "stronger laws...to protect their (8) _____ homes".

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

soft

figure

cultural

pressures

industry

tipping

draw

failing

The koala has huge (9) _____ significance for Australia. Wikipedia writes: "The koala is well known worldwide and is a major (10) _____ for Australian zoos and wildlife parks. It has been featured in advertisements, games, cartoons, and as (11) _____ toys. It benefited the national tourism (12) _____ by over an estimated billion Australian dollars in 1998, a (13) _____ that has since grown." Despite this, efforts to protect the koala have been (14) _____. Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said there have been "many (15) _____ on the koala," and that it is "vulnerable to climate change and to disease". She said the 2019-2020 bushfires, which killed at least 6,400 of the animals, were "a (16) _____ point".

COMPREHENSION - MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answers. Then, compare them to your answers above in the comprehension sentences questions, just after the true/false part.

- 1) What does the article say koalas are the epitome of?
 - a) danger
 - b) cuddliness
 - c) Australia
 - d) cute
- 2) What is the most pessimistic estimate of the numbers of wild koalas?
 - a) 143,000
 - b) 48,000
 - c) 43,000
 - d) 100,000
- 3) What are koalas being hit by?
 - a) people
 - b) tree branches
 - c) rocks
 - d) cars
- 4) Within what timeframe have koalas gone from no listing to endangered?
 - a) 15 years
 - b) 10 years
 - c) 25 years
 - d) 20 years
- 5) What did the WWF say koalas are sliding towards?
 - a) extinction
 - b) the ground
 - c) rock pools
 - d) other eucalyptus trees
- 6) What did Wikipedia say koalas were a major draw for?
 - a) Australian zoos and wildlife parks
 - b) safari parks
 - c) zoos all over the world
 - d) trips into the Aussie bush
- 7) When did koalas bring in a billion dollars for Australia?
 - a) 2018
 - b) 2008
 - c) 1988
 - d) 1998
- 8) What have efforts to protect koalas been doing?
 - a) absolutely nothing
 - b) improving things
 - c) failing
 - d) increasing deaths
- 9) Who is Sussan Ley?
 - a) an expert on marsupials
 - b) Australia's Minister for Koalas
 - c) a WWF bigwig
 - d) Australia's Environment Minister
- 10) What were recent bushfires that killed koalas described as?
 - a) hot
 - b) a tipping point
 - c) fiery
 - d) a furnace

GAP FILL - Multiple Choice

Fill in the blanks using the options given for each word below.

The koala is (1) ____ as the epitome of cuddliness. However, animal lovers will be saddened to hear that this (2) ____ marsupial has been moved to the endangered species list. The Australian Koala Foundation estimates there are (3) ____ between 43,000-100,000 koalas left in the wild. Their numbers have been dwindling rapidly due to disease, (4) ____ of habitat, bushfires, being hit by cars, and other threats. Stuart Blanch from the World Wildlife Fund in Australia said: "Koalas have gone from no listing to (5) ____ to endangered within a decade. That is a shockingly fast decline. He added that koalas risk "sliding toward extinction" (6) ____ there are "stronger laws...to protect their forest homes".

The koala has huge cultural significance for Australia. Wikipedia writes: "The koala is well known worldwide and is a major (7) ____ for Australian zoos and wildlife parks. It has been featured in advertisements, games, cartoons, and as soft toys. It benefited the national tourism industry by over an (8) ____ billion Australian dollars in 1998, a figure that has since (9) ____." Despite this, efforts to protect the koala have been failing. Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said there have been "many pressures (10) ____ the koala," and that it is "vulnerable to climate change and to disease". She said the 2019-2020 (11) ____, which killed at least 6,400 of the animals, were "a (12) ____ point".

Which of these words go in the above text?

1. (a) regarded	(b) regarding	(c) regards	(d) regard
2. (a) loves	(b) lovey	(c) lovable	(d) lover
3. (a) where	(b) sometime	(c) somewhere	(d) someone
4. (a) lost	(b) loser	(c) lose	(d) loss
5. (a) vulnerable	(b) culpable	(c) venerable	(d) generable
6. (a) though	(b) unless	(c) meanwhile	(d) utmost
7. (a) breathe in	(b) sketch	(c) tie	(d) draw
8. (a) estimation	(b) estimated	(c) estimate	(d) esteem
9. (a) growth	(b) grows	(c) grown	(d) growing
10. (a) to	(b) at	(c) in	(d) on
11. (a) bush firing	(b) bushel fires	(c) bushy fires	(d) bushfires
12. (a) tapping	(b) tipping	(c) tepid	(d) topping

Cut and Paste

Put the text back together:

(____) to protect the koala have been failing. Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said

(____) decline." He added that koalas risk "sliding toward extinction" unless there are "stronger laws...to protect their forest homes".

(____) there are somewhere between 43,000-100,000 koalas left in the wild. Their numbers have been

(____) hear that this lovable marsupial has been moved to the endangered species list. The Australian Koala Foundation estimates

(____) and to disease". She said the 2019-2020 bushfires, which killed at least 6,400 of the animals, were "a tipping point".

(____) known worldwide and is a major draw for Australian zoos and wildlife parks. It has been featured in

(____) there have been "many pressures on the koala," and that it is "vulnerable to climate change

(____) advertisements, games, cartoons, and as soft toys. It benefited the national tourism industry by

(____) dwindling rapidly due to disease, loss of habitat, bushfires, being hit by cars, and

(____) from no listing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade. That is a shockingly fast

(____) other threats. Stuart Blanch from the World Wildlife Fund in Australia said: "Koalas have gone

(____) over an estimated billion Australian dollars in 1998, a figure that has since grown." Despite this, efforts

(____) The koala has huge cultural significance for Australia. Wikipedia writes: "The koala is well

(**1**) The koala is regarded as the epitome of cuddliness. However, animal lovers will be saddened to