

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 ² ¹ /ə/ strong form eɪ/ (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. **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. **3** used for saying what kind of person or thing sb/sth is: He's a doctor. **4** used with prices, rates, measurements each: I usually drink two litres of water a day. **5** used with some expressions of quantity: a lot of money **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/ ² /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. **2** used when there is only one of sth: The sun is very strong today. **3** used with numbers and dates: This is the third time I've seen this film. **4** used with adjectives to name a group of people: the French **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.