

Unit 4 The Animal Kingdom



Longleat

Longleat, Somerset's famous safari park, is the oldest attraction of its kind in the world outside of Africa. Since 1966, visitors have been able to take their cars for a drive through enclosures full of lions, tigers, wolves and other magnificent apex predators, not to mention huge white rhinos and elephants (well, the resident elephant, Anne, at least). It is a magical - and at times hair-raising experience for little and big kids alike. And what makes a trip there even more worthwhile is the knowledge that your entrance fee is supporting an organisation that is committed to animal welfare. The animals at Longleat are not kept in tiny enclosures; there are no depressed faces looking out through the iron bars of a cramped cage; there is no pacing up and down the same three-metre-long area of grass all day; at Longleat, the animals come first and their needs are put before even the desire of visitors to get value for their money. If Anne the Elephant wants to go into her shelter, she is free to do so any time; if the gorilla wants to retreat to his sofa and watch some satellite T.V. (I kid you not!), then that's his prerogative - visitors just have to accept this. But even if you miss a few encounters on your drive around the park, you seldom go away disappointed because the animals that you do see reward you in full - like this handsome lion here. I must admit, though, that the hair on the back of my neck was standing up pretty straight when I first caught sight of the king of the jungle approaching from behind. Now that's an image I never thought I'd see out of my rear-view mirror - yikes!!

(A) Read the text above and then discuss these questions with a partner or as a class.

1. From what you have read about Longleat, do you approve of what it does?
2. Look at the picture top-left of the page; how would you feel if you were the driver of this car?
3. Would you like to visit Longleat? Why / why not?
4. Have you ever been to a similar park?
5. Do you think it is fair to keep animals in captivity in a place like Longleat?
6. How is a safari park different to a zoo?
7. What are the benefits of keeping animals in safari parks and zoos?
8. Would you consider yourself an animal lover?
9. Do we have a responsibility to look after the planet's animal life?
10. Can you think of any dangers that might be associated with a place like Longleat - for the animals or the visitors?

Keeping Animals in Captivity

(B) Read the passage FOR and the passage AGAINST keeping animals in captivity and fill each gap with a word/phrase from the box at the bottom of the page. Use each word/phrase **once** only.

For

Keeping animals in captivity is extremely important for many reasons. Zoos, for example, perform a vital function in helping to (a) _____ children and allowing them to (b) _____ the wonders of nature. They teach children to (c) _____ animals. But not only this, they are also important for (d) _____ and (e) _____ purposes. Zoos protect and study populations of species that are (f) _____ in the wild. Without this contribution, such species could become (g) _____. As for pets, well, what needs to be said really? They are our constant (h) _____ and our best friends. They keep us company, protect us, love us and appreciate us; in some cases, the bond between pet and owner is stronger than the owner's relationship with any other human being. And another thing; people like to bash animal testing, but the truth is that without it we wouldn't be able to find (i) _____ for some of the most deadly diseases. Animal testing is, unfortunately, a necessary evil; in order to advance science and medicine, it is a practice that must be employed. But most animals in captivity are not subject to lab tests anyway. In fact, the vast majority benefit from their relationship with humans - and goodness knows, we benefit from our relationship with them, too. Having animals around makes us more (j) _____ and, well, more human actually.

Against

Keeping animals in captivity is a form of (i) _____ cruelty _____ whatever way you look at it and there are countless examples of this. Take the circus, where we make animals perform tricks for our (ii) _____ and whip them when they do not. If that's not bad enough, circus owners keep their animals in tiny (iii) _____ and transport them all around the country in (iv) _____ barely big enough for them to fit into. And what about the equestrian world? The wild, natural (v) _____ of the horse is 'broken' out of it (that is even the verb horse-breakers use...) and it is 'trained' - again with a whip - to be obedient and forced to race or jump, and risk serious harm in the process. And what happens when a horse gets injured? The owners simply get it (vi) _____. We even use animals to carry out laboratory (vii) _____. We test new (viii) _____ and new drugs on animals, and we force them to endure all kinds of pain in the process. The zoo is supposed to be a safe (ix) _____ though, right? Wrong. In many poor countries, zoo animals are mistreated and left (x) _____ and lonely for lack of (xi) _____. And as for pets, well, we simply objectify them and treat them like toys if they're lucky. If not, we (xii) _____ them or (xiii) _____ them for the most part.

cures	extinct	companionship	cosmetics	cruelty	cages
humane	research	unstimulated	put down	conservation	pleasure
neglect	respect	haven	educate	appreciate	spirit
abandon	companions	tests	enclosures	endangered	

(C) This is a Part 2 question. Try to answer it using the *step-by-step* approach.

Describe a time you went to a performance or visited an attraction that involved animals in some way.

In your answer you should say:

- when and where you went
- why you went
- what you saw

and whether or not you enjoyed it.

Step 1 Make Notes

(D) Remember, in Part 2, the examiner may ask you some follow-up questions. Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Do you like the circus / the zoo? Why / why not?
- Do you like pets? Would you describe yourself as an animal person?
- Are you scared of any animals?

(E) Remember, Part 3 is always related to the topic in Part 2. Answer these Part 3 questions. First, write your answers down. Then put away your written answers and try to say the answers using similar ideas (but do not try to memorise your written answers).

1. 'People generally treat animals quite well.' Do you agree?

2. 'An animal life is not worth the same as that of a human.' Do you agree?

3. Do you think it is necessary to test out products on animals?

4. Is it cruel to keep animals in zoos or make them perform in the circus?

5. Is it right for people to keep exotic animals as pets?

(F) Look at the statements / phrases below and decide whether they relate to (a) a pet dog, (b) a pet cat, or (c) a pet rabbit. Be prepared to justify your decisions.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (1) very loyal | (7) NEEDS A LOT OF CARE | (12) Need to clean up after it |
| (2) very independent | - VERY RELIANT ON OWNER | (13) sheds a lot of hair |
| (3) very affectionate | (8) low-maintenance | (14) Very delicate and easily hurt |
| (4) Wanders off on its own a lot | (9) HIGHLY INTELLIGENT | (15) EASY TO TRAIN |
| (5) Loves attention | (10) RESPONSIVE TO COMMANDS | |
| (6) cute, soft and furry | (11) good at alerting to danger and keeping watch | |

Add your own:

(G) Look at the pictures and answer the questions below, discussing them with a partner or as a class.



- Which of these pets would you rather have?
- Which of these pets do you think would be the easiest to look after?
- Which of them do you think would be the most difficult to look after?
- Is there a type of pet that is not pictured here that you would like to own?
- What pets do you have at the moment?



(H) Answer the following Part 2 question using the *step-by-step* approach.

Describe your perfect pet.

In your answer you should say:

- what type of animal it would be
- what it would look like
- how it would behave

And why it would make such a good pet.

Follow-up Questions:

- Have you ever had a pet that gave you trouble?
- Do you think you would be (are) a good pet owner?
- What would you do if you found an abandoned pet by the side of the street?

(H) Answer the following Part 3 questions on a related topic.

- Why do people become so attached to their pets?
- Do you think it is strange when people like being around pets more than human beings?
- Do you think it is cruel to race and jump horses?
- Are people who hunt animals for their own entertainment doing anything wrong?
- Why do most people not eat cats and dogs, yet they do eat cows and pigs?
What's the difference?

Speaking Test 4

PART 1

The examiner will ask you some questions about yourself.

*Let's talk about pets.
Do you have any pets?
Do you like animals?
What pet would you get if you could choose any?
How does the rest of your family feel about pets?
Have you ever had a bad experience with an animal?*

The examiner will then ask you some questions about one or two other topics. See the example below.

*Now let's talk about food.
What's your favourite food?
Do you eat out at restaurants often?
Do you eat a lot of fast food?
Do you like food from other countries?
What sorts of food do you and your friends eat when you go out together?*

PART 2

The examiner will give you a topic on a card like the one below and ask you to talk about it for one to two minutes. Before you talk you have one minute to think about what you want to say. The examiner will give you some paper and a pencil so you can make notes if you want to.

Describe your favourite animal.

You should say:

- what it is and what it looks like
- where it is found
- how it behaves

and explain why you like it.

The examiner may ask you one or two more related questions when you have finished, like those given in the example below.

*Do you ever watch nature documentaries on television?
Would you like to work with animals?
Would you ever think of becoming a vegetarian?*

PART 3

The examiner will ask you some more general questions which follow on from the topic in Part 2.

*Do you think being cruel to an animal is the same as being cruel to a human?
Should people be allowed to hunt animals for their own entertainment?
How can we help protect endangered species of animals?
What sorts of human activities make it more difficult for wild animals to survive?
Is it fair to make pets out of wild animals?
If a shark kills a human in the sea, should it be hunted down?
'There are no intelligent animals - except humans...' Do you agree?*