Keith Speaking Academy

Live Lesson Notes

Animals

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Some useful Links

Test your **vocabulary** about **animals** here
https://www.passporttoenglish.com/Advanced-English/Lesson14/Vocabulary.html

Zoos good or bad? - watch the debate!
https://www.kqed.org/education/532723/are-zoos-good-or-bad-for-animals

Ideas for some **interesting animals**
https://allthatsinteresting.com/interesting-animals

Click to get a complete **Mock IELTS** Test.
https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/

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General Vocabulary

*When talking about animals you **like**, the most <u>common mistake</u> is to use the singular, but if you are talking about this animal in general, you should use the **plural**.*

I like giraffe X

I like giraffe<u>s</u> / dog<u>s</u> / elephant<u>s</u>

I adore cats
I am into _____
I am a big fan of _____

I am a ___ person

I am a cat person

Pets

I **have a pet hate,** people speaking whilst eating
=something I hate a lot

I was the **teacher's pet**
= the teacher's favourite

Zoos

There are many different **species** (n.)

<u>Ca</u>pture (v.) - catch (v.)

Animals are kept <u>in</u> **cap<u>ti</u>vity** (n.)

Cage (n.) -

It's sad to see **caged** (adj.) animals

We can save **endangered** (adj.) animals
<u>Tigers are</u> an endangered animal

<u>The tiger is</u> an endangered animal

To become / be <u>extinct</u> (adj.)
= *to disappear, so no longer exist*

They are **on the brink of** <u>extinction</u> (n.)
= *about to become extinct*

They are **on the verge of** extinction
= *about to become extinct*

In a **conservation / natural / safari park** animals are allowed to **roam**
(=to walk without direction) freely

We can protect animals from **poaching** (=illegal hunting)

Wild animals

herbivores (n.) = animals that eat plants
Cows, rabbits, horses…

carnivores (n.) are meat-eating animals
lions, tigers, snakes

mammals (n.) are warm-blooded, and the young feed on milk…
Humans, whales, dogs dolphins, bears

marsupials (n.) - the young live in a pouch (native to Australia)
Kangaroo, Koala, wombats, platypus, possums, wallabies

Animals that eat other animals are called **predators**

Why do people have pets?

With this kind of question 'WHY DO PEOPLE ____?"

*I recommend you focus on **1 group** of people, and then talk about them.*
This makes it easier to answer because it is very specific, otherwise you may just give a very general, 'surface-level' answer.

Also as you become more specific, you will find you use more specific vocabulary which can boost your vocabulary score.

For example,

If we are talking about old people, I think….

If we are talking about disabled people, they…

When it comes to young people, they….

More useful phrases

For **security**

For company

For companionship

They keep you company
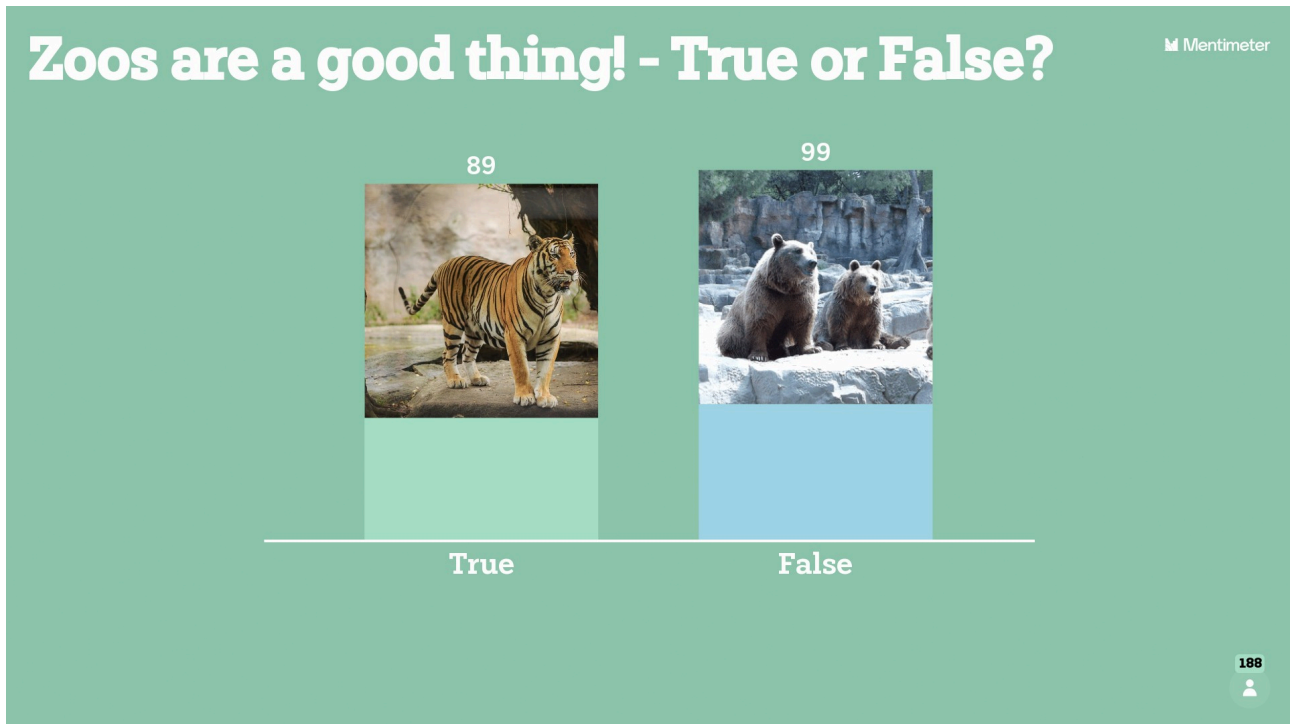
In today's isolated life they want a companion

Pets symbolise a sense of welfare / well-being

To **curb** loneliness (=reduce, keep in check)

Help us meet other people

Pets give us a great chance to **socialise with others**

Zoos: Good or bad?

As you can see from the poll in our lesson, this is a hotly debated issue. If you are not sure about your opinion, you could say…

I am on the fence on this one
=undecided

I am in two minds about this
=undecided

_____

Zoos are <u>not</u> a good thing because…

Cages and living conditions are too **cramped** - wild animals need liberty and freedom

Animals **lose their instincts** (for example how to hunt) and often become depressed

They might be good for people but if we think of animals, zoos limit their activities and natural way of spending their life.

By keeping animals **cooped up** (in a small cage), there are more chances of extinction as they don't get the conditions they need to **mate** and **reproduce**

By keeping animals in captivity, **ecosystems** can **be badly effected.**

Some zoos abuse animals, for example, training elephants for entertainment.

Zoos **pose a risk**, if animals can escape, they can harm people.

_____

Zoos <u>are</u> a good thing because…

They can help educate children

Zoos can be good **for educational purposes** to let children know about a wide range of animals.

That said, we should protect the **natural habitats** where the endangered species live.

I think, if workers treat animals kindly, zoos are good.

well, It really depends how well zoos are managed, and how much protection can be provided to the animals.

Its good to keep some of animals in zoos, as **otherwise** their **predators** will eat them and **their numbers will decrease**.

I think zoos are good to provided favourable conditions to endangered species and so help save them.

Zoos can help us understand the **biodiversity on our planet**

Wild animals

Students' Questions

Keith, tell us about a time when you saw a wild animal

Well, it's an interesting question because I live in the city, so I don't get a lot of access to wild animals**, as you can imagine.**

But I do remember once, when we were out **trekking** in the mountains, we went through a forest, it's not far from where I live, actually.

Whilst we were going through the forest, suddenly **out of the blue** *(=unexpectedly)* we saw this fox and I didn't know there were foxes in that forest, but there you go**, lo and behold,** *(=used to present a new and surprising situation)* there it was.

It was a lot bigger than I imagined. As I mentioned I live in a city so I don't see many wild animals, but this fox was almost **the size of a** wolf

and **what was interesting was,** it was really scared of us. It was more scared of us than we were of it.

So, it kind of **peeped up** *(=took a quick look)* from behind the bush, it looked at us and then **scurried away** *(=ran away quickly),* to run away and escape.

Obviously, it was afraid of humans. So, I **felt surprised to see** how big it was and how scared it was, but it was a really interesting experience that time I saw a fox in the forest near where I live.

*Notice, my speech is **not** in perfect sentences. If you write your answers out in perfect sentences, it will **not** sound natural, it will sound like you are a book!*

Keith, do you think zoos are a good way to conserve wild animals?

Well, it's an interesting question and I think I have two minds about this.

I know that, **by and large**, scientific research **points in the direction -** to suggest its not a good way to **conserve wild animals**,

because wild animals are **kept in captivity**, often in small **cramped** places, they **lose their instinct** *(=natural ability to do things),*

whether that be, how to hunt, how to look after their young or how to socialise,

and so they become depressed and they change their behaviour and so really they are not surviving as a species.

If we were to let them out into the wild, **they would** die within a week .

So, I think we really have to question whether we are really conserving the wild animals, the species, **for the long term.**

That said, there are certain animals may be endangered animals **on the brink of extinction** that need more protection, otherwise they will **die out**

and so for those animals it may be **plausible** to put them **in captivity**, preferably a natural park, where they can **roam freely** and **be closer to nature**

and so that yes, in that case, that may be a better way to conserve the species.

*Notice, my speech is not in perfect sentences. If you write your answers out in perfect sentences, it will **not** sound natural, it will sound like you are a book!*

Keith, what wild animal do you like and why?

I am a big fan of elephants. I think, elephants are **curious and amazing** creatures.

I have seen elephants on the television, not in real life, where they are **trained to do** amazing things, from almost **acrobatics** to painting with their **trunk**.

I **just** think, they are lovely creatures and they seem very sociable, and very friendly, although of course in the wild I am sure they are much more aggressive,

but they are typically an animal that humans like **to tame (**=*to domesticate)* and I think they wonderful.