
ProTalk
Discussion Files
afaq
Language Center
C1. Are zoos morally right?
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Goals

- Can read and understand the main points of a text about zoos and keeping animals in captivity.
- Can discuss the arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos and give clear reasons to support my views.



Do you think zoos provide a **safe environment** for animals or do you think they hold them **captive**?

Let's discuss...

Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to think about, and discuss, whether it is right or wrong to keep **animals** in **zoos** and to justify your opinion on the subject.



Are these giraffes in their **natural habitat**?

Zoos

Read through these facts about zoos.



The first zoo was founded in Paris in 1794.

The San Diego Zoo has over 4,500 animals from 900 species.

At least 700 million people per year visit a zoo.

In Japan, zookeepers practise animal escapes by dressing up in animal costumes.

Zoos

Do any of the facts on the previous page surprise you?

Is there a zoo in your hometown?

What kind of animals can you see at a zoo?

Have you heard of any unusual zoos?



Read the text and summarize it.

Why should animals be kept in zoos?

Firstly, a zoo provides many people with the only chance they will get to see a large number of animals in real life. This human contact means that we are more connected with animals and perhaps more invested in their **welfare**. It makes people **conscious of** the **diversity** in the natural world, and thus zoos **raise awareness** of animal **conservation**. Zoos often save **endangered species** and usually have **breeding programmes** for these animals which might have died out in the wild; in this way, zoos are **preserving** the diversity of the animal kingdom. Good zoos are **accredited** and animals in these zoos are well-fed and well looked after. These zoos also provide animals with **habitats** similar to those they would find in the wild.

Make your own sentences with the new words.



A lion's natural **habitat** is the savannas of Africa.

Animal **welfare** is an important topic for zoos.





Children should be **conscious of** how to help endangered species.

It is important to preserve the **diversity** of the animal kingdom.



Make your own sentences with the new words.



Zoos can raise awareness of problems animals have in the wild.

Wildlife conservation is one of the main aims of zoos.





Many zoos have breeding programmes for their animals.

We should only visit zoos which are accredited.



Visiting a zoo

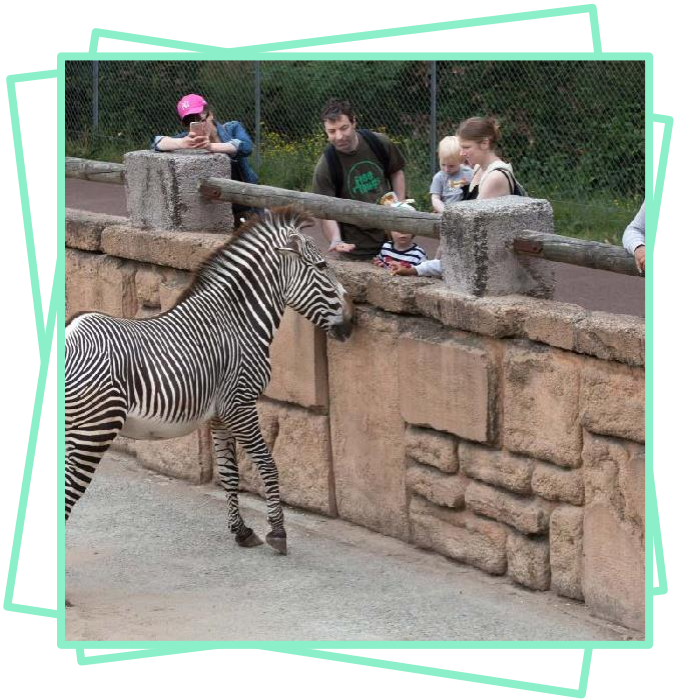
Have you been to a zoo before?

Did the zoo help you to make a connection with the animals? Were you more aware of animal issues after your visit?



Accredited zoos

Do you think it is important to check that you are visiting an **accredited zoo**?



Read the text and summarize it.

Why shouldn't animals be kept in zoos?

On the other hand, keeping animals **in captivity** puts them into a different environment to their natural one, which can make them bored or stressed. Many zoos do not provide animals with enough space or **stimulation** to give them a good quality of life. Moreover, humans do not have the right to **capture** animals and keep them for entertainment. Putting endangered species into zoos only lowers their numbers in the wild. Most animals which are bred in zoos are never **released** back into their natural habitat but are kept in **captivity** forever. By visiting zoos, children are simply being taught that it is right to capture and keep animals in **cages** rather than being taught any **empathy**.



Make your own sentences with the new words.

in captivity	Some people argue that animals should not be kept **in captivity**.
stimulation	It is important for animals to have **stimulation** to keep them calm and happy.
release	It is difficult to **release** animals bred in captivity into the wild.
cage	A **cage** is a structure with bars in which zoo animals are often kept.

alternatives to zoos

Safari parks or **animal sanctuaries** are alternative places to zoos where people can see animals up close. Animals in these places are kept in their natural habitats and are generally not made to perform for the public.



Safari parks can be found anywhere but the biggest are in Africa.



Animal sanctuaries often rescue animals which have been badly treated.

Complete the sentences

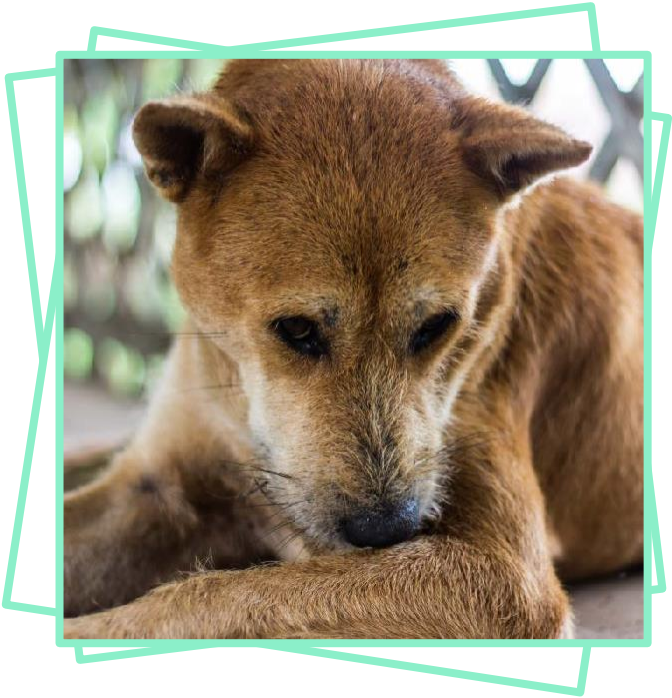
Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

1. Some people argue that animals kept in cages...
2. Stimulation is important for zoo animals because...
3. A safari park is a place...
4. In an animal sanctuary...
5. Releasing zoo animals into the wild is...

Speaking

What do you think about safari parks and animal sanctuaries?
Have you ever visited one or would you like to?





justifying your opinion

When you give your **opinion** on a subject you must **justify why** you think that or why you feel that way.

On the next page you will find some **phrases** to help you do that.



I believe that zoos are wrong **because** animals should not be kept in cages.

Make your own sentences with the new words.

the reason I think this is	I believe we should keep animals in zoos. **The reason I think this is**...
the main reason I feel this way is	I do not believe that animals should be kept in zoos. **The main reason I feel this way is**...
...due to the fact that...	Animals are stressed in cages **due to the fact that** they are not in their natural environment.
because of...	**Because of** the entertainment value of zoos for communities, I believe we should keep them.

Justify your opinion

Justify your opinion on these questions in one sentence using the phrases from the previous page.



Which animal do you think would make the most interesting pet?

Which breed of dog do you think is the most intelligent?

Do you think humans should talk to pets like they are also human?

What is the most interesting animal native to your country?

Do snakes make good pets?

What is the best name for a pet bird?

Are cats better than dogs?

Comment on the sentences

Read the two sentences below and talk about them with your teacher.

> Zoos are a fun and traditional day out for all the family. It would be a shame to lose that.

> No child has ever seen a dinosaur but millions love them. We don't need zoos to make children empathise with animals.



For or against?

Make a list of arguments for and against zoos.
Use what you remember from the lesson and add any of your own.

for	against

breeding programmes



Debate

Present your arguments as a debate.

Zoos protect endangered species.





We should not keep wild animals in captivity.

Student A: you are in favour of keeping animals in zoos.

Student B: you are against keeping animals in zoos.

Activity p. 10

1. welfare, 2. breeding programme, 3. raising awareness, 4. habitat, 5. Accredited

Your visit to a zoo or safari park

Think about a zoo or safari park that you have visited and what you know about those places.



cages

enclosures

stimulation

breeding programme

raise awareness

conservation

in captivity

Presentation

Prepare a two-minute presentation about a zoo or safari park that you have visited with suggestions on how they can do better for the animals in their care.
Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.



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