

'ZOO' Reading Task A

Watch the reading of Zoo by Anthony Browne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T07u0AggVsg>

Think about the following questions:

- What do you like about the story?
- Is there anything that you dislike about it?
- Does it remind you of anything that has happened to you?
- Does it remind you of any books that you have read?
- Do you think zoos are for animals or for people? What does the mum mean when she says that?
- Do you think the characters enjoyed their day at the zoo? Why/Why not?
- Would you and your family behave differently if you went to the zoo together? How?

How the author writes about the animals and what they do, affects the characters and readers impression of the zoo and the animals themselves. Take a look at the adverbials recap below and then have a go at the zoo adverbials challenge to think like an author and choose adverbials for a purpose.

Adverbials

Adverbials tell us more about a verb.

Adverbials can be

a word,

a phrase,

or a clause.

unfortunately

in the wild

as they adapt to captivity

Adverbials tell us more about a verb.

Adverbials

Adverbials answer the questions...

Where?

Tigers hunt *in the wild*.

When?

Tigers hunt *at night*.

How?

Tigers hunt *with cunning*.

Adverbials can be placed before and after the main clause.

Lemurs forage.

For much of the day, Lemurs forage *in the wild*.

With nimble fingers, lemurs forage *for fruit and small insects*.

Up in trees, Lemurs forage *with others nearby*.

When an **adverbial** appears in front of the sentence it is modifying...
it is called a **fronted adverbial**.

Fronted adverbials are punctuated by a comma.

Zoo Adverbials

Try adding adverbials to change the impact.

Try making the zoo seem a good or bad place to be.

Or make your reader impressed, scared, bored or sorry for the zoo animals.

1. The tiger paced.
2. The elephant chewed.
3. Some giraffes ambled.
4. The meerkat watched.
5. The rhinoceros stamped.
6. The penguins waddled.
7. A polar bear sniffed.
8. Two baboons fought.
9. The orangutan crouched.
10. A gorilla stared.

'Zoo Opinions' Reading Task B

Read the two sets of opinions

- Read *Zoo Opinion 1*.
 - Which of the writer's points do you think is most powerful? Why?
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- Read *Zoo Opinion 2*.
 - Which of these two pieces of writing do you agree with most? Why?

Watch some of the videos and read some of the information on the following links to help think more about zoos:

www.bbc.co.uk/guides/ztkpn39#zs6c4wx

www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/zoo/

What are zoos for?

Do we still need them today?

How are modern zoos different from the first zoos?

Zoo Opinion 1



The problem with zoos is that lots of them soothe their feelings of guilt by telling themselves that they are really doing these animals a favour by contributing towards the conservation of the species. The reality, however, is very different. Many of these animals that are bred in captivity never get to experience their true identity. They never get to roam around freely, making relationships and acting in a natural way. They are told what to eat, when to sleep, what to play with (if anything!) and how to act. They will never be released as they wouldn't be able to survive for more than five minutes in the wild. So, the next time you see an animal in the zoo, please consider these points and **DON'T** be fooled by the signs telling you the zoo is keeping the animal contained for the better good because this is definitely not the case!

Some might say that zoos help the animal have a longer life BUT does longer necessarily mean BETTER? Ok, so the animal might have another few years on this planet, but you have to ask yourself: does it really want those extra years? Wouldn't it be better to put it out of its misery sooner? In the wild, animals live life to the full every day, and, whilst I accept that this may mean they are subject to an early death by predators or disease, this still has to be better than sitting in a tiny cage having humans shout at you and having cameras flash at you all day, every day, doesn't it?

Zoo Opinion 2



Can everyone afford a trip to Africa or the Arctic? I don't think so. This is where zoos come into their own. Instead of having to pay thousands on flights and travel, the cost of the zoo is nothing AND you are at least guaranteed to see some animals. There have been stories where people have paid extraordinary amounts of money to go on safari and they haven't even seen a bird! What a waste of money and time! Isn't it better to have these animals in zoos around the county so they are accessible to everyone and not just the elite who can afford it?

If someone has never seen a tiger in real-life, why would they bother donating money to save the tigers in the wild? However, once they have seen the beauty and majestic qualities a tiger has, by visiting a zoo, then they will surely be much more likely to donate in the shop or when they get home. Therefore, that one tiger in the zoo has helped save thousands of others in their natural habitats.

Some endangered species in the wild find it almost impossible to find a mate as their species numbers are so small, making an already awful situation even worse. This is where zoos with a comprehensive conservation programme come into their own. Through these programmes, animals can be paired up with a suitable mate and they will go on to have strong babies that have a good chance of being released back into the wild. The animals remaining in the zoo lead a peaceful and contented life with a companion rather than having the gruelling struggle of trying to find a mate for their whole life.

Zoo Project Glossary- Vocabulary Explained

The following vocabulary will be useful for you to understand when talking about and learning about animals and conservation:

Adaptation	That which fits an animal to exploit a given environment e.g. the thick fur coat of the snow leopard is an adaptation to its cold mountain environment.
Conservation	The maintenance of environmental quality and resources. The resources may be: physical (e.g. fossil fuels), biological (e.g. tropical rainforests and its inhabitants), or cultural (e.g. ancient monuments).
Distribution	Area over which a species occurs.
Threatened Species	A type of animal or plant which is threatened with extinction.
Environment	The complete range of external conditions, physical and biological in which an organism lives. This includes social considerations, as well as features such as soil, climate and food supply.
Extinct	Term used when a species or group of species no longer exists.
Habitat	Living place of an animal as determined by climate, vegetation and terrain.
Predator	An animal which obtains food by eating another, the prey.
Preservation	The protection of species or landscapes without reference to change in living species.
Prey	An animal which is used as food by another, the predator.
Reintroduction	Returning a species to its former range in the wild.
Territory	Area occupied by an animal, or a pair or group, which is defended against intruders.