

The reading passage explains that altruism is when animals or humans sacrifice their own interests to help others, without getting anything in return. The meerkats for example, which one of their members acts as a sentinel who looking out for a predator and give an alarm when sees a predator while other hunt for food or just eat the food they have obtained.

However, the lecture gives new information that challenges this idea. The lecturer says that studies show sentinel meerkats usually eat first before standing guard, so they are not sacrificing food. Also, because they are closest to the burrow, they are actually the most likely to escape first when a predator comes. Other meerkats searching for food are at higher risk. This means the sentinel behavior is not purely altruistic.

The lecture also questions human altruism. It says even people who donate organs may receive emotional rewards, like feeling good about themselves or receiving praise from others. So, both with meerkats and humans, the lecture suggests these acts are not completely selfless, unlike what the reading claims.

Meerkat eat before the standing guard, stands guard standing near the burrows