

COMMUNICATION

Are humans more important than animals?

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1051X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can discuss the relationship between humans and animals.
- I can share my views on animal rights and welfare.



Warm-up

Name the animal in each picture.

1



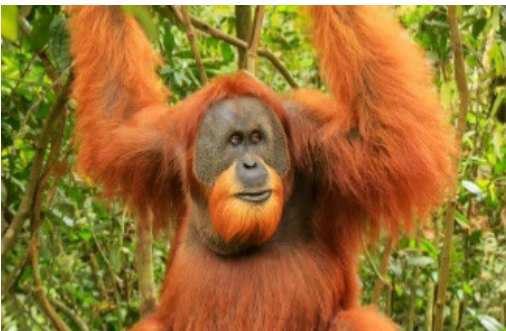
2



3



4



5



What do you
know about each one?



How about you?

**Have you ever
seen an exotic
animal in the
wild?**

How was the experience?





Reading

Read the opinions below. **Highlight** three differences between humans and animals.



There is no doubt that humans are **unique**. Unlike animals, human beings have the **power of speech**, which has **evolved** far beyond the often **complex** communication that animals have.

Human brains are much more powerful than animals', with a much more **sophisticated set of cognitive functions**. Humans also have a larger range of emotions; animals are **incapable** of feeling guilt or shame, for instance.





Discuss

Do you consider human beings to be unique?



In what other ways are humans different from animals?



What do you think?

What are the dangers of humans considering themselves to be more important than animals?

Brainstorm ideas as a class.





Giving both sides



On the one hand...

On the other hand...

When discussing **sensitive topics**, you should try to show an understanding of **different points of view**.

Use **these phrases** to do so!



Discuss in breakout rooms

Are these activities **cruel** or **necessary**? **Justify** your opinion.

testing
medicine on
animals

testing
cosmetics on
animals

*In my view, this activity is extremely cruel
given that...*

breeding
animals for
certain traits

raising
animals only
for meat

*I don't have a problem with this. My main
reasons are...*

killing animals
for fur

hunting for
sport

*I can see both sides here. On the one
hand... on the other hand....*



How about you?

How many pets have you had in your life?



Is keeping a pet going against animal rights or not?



Read the quotation

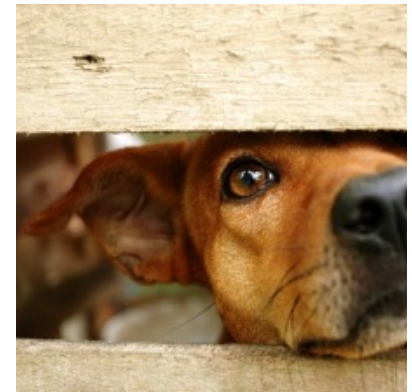


A pet is for life; not just for Christmas! Yet over 6.3 million animals enter U.S. animal shelters every year!

Why do you think so many people abandon their pets?

Is animal homelessness a big problem where you live?

How can we effectively tackle this problem?





Complete the dialogue

look after

abandon

transported

trade



Did you see that documentary on the exotic pet _____ last night?

And people don't know how to _____ them! They _____ the animals when things get too difficult!

Then a lot of them die when they're being _____: do you remember the parrots having their beaks taped shut?



cages

immoral

aware

wild

Yes, it's terrible. _____ animals like monkeys and turtles are not meant to live in _____!

And did you see the bit about how they're caught? They're just snatched from the wild. It's so _____.

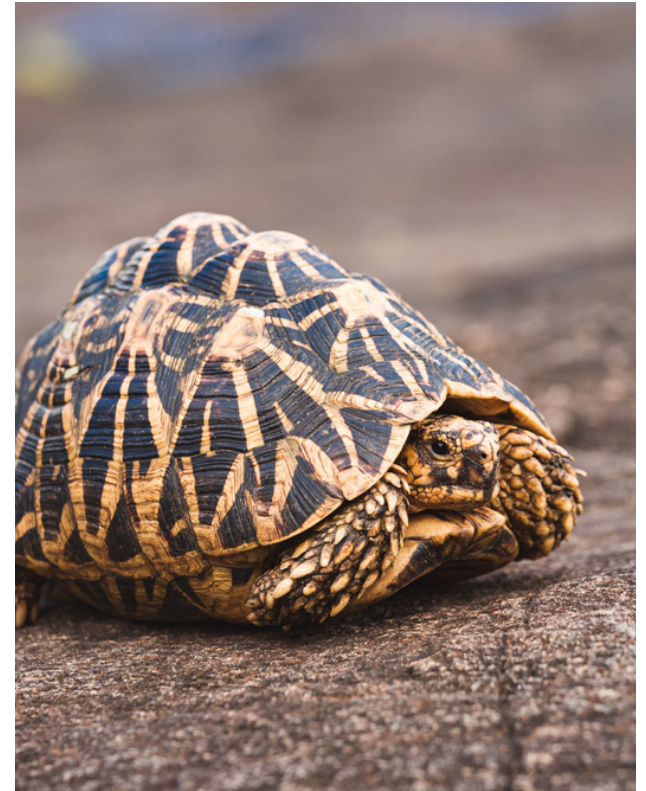
It's dreadful. People need to be more _____: no snakes, birds, big cats, or monkeys – just get a cat or a dog!



Discuss

**Had you heard of
the exotic pet
trade before?**

**Do you know anyone who has
an exotic or unusual pet?**



End of the lesson

Idiom

lion's share

Meaning: the largest or best part of something when it is divided

Example: Looking after my five dogs takes up the **lion's share** of my free time.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 Many people consider human beings to be _____ among all of the creatures on Earth.
- 2 Animal _____ is considered to be far less complex in comparison to the ways in which humans communicate.
- 3 It has been found that animals have fewer _____ functions compared to human beings.
- 4 Guilt and shame are two examples of emotions that animals are _____ of feeling.

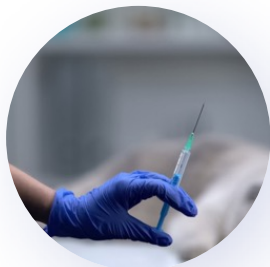
incapable
speech
unique
cognitive





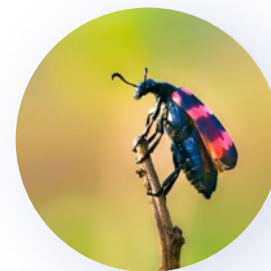
Reach these two opinions

Answer the questions below. Remember to **justify** your opinions.



There is no such thing as a humane way to kill animals!

Insects don't deserve the same rights as mammals.



What's a synonym for the word *humane*?

Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

What's an example of a *mammal*?

Do you agree or disagree with this view?



Discuss

**Should we all be
vegan or
vegetarian?**

**Is it ever right to kill animals
for food?**





Answer key

P. 3: 1. Polar bear; 2. Tiger; 3. Giant panda; 4. Orangutan; 5. Green turtle

P. 12: 1. trade
2. wild
3. cages
4. look after
5. abandon
6. immoral
7. transported
8. aware

P. 17: 1. unique
2. speech
3. cognitive
4. incapable



Summary

Describing traits of humans and animals

- *unique; power of speech; to evolve; complex communication*
- *cognitive functions; incapable of...*
- *Animals are **incapable of** feeling guilt or shame.*

Relationship between humans and animals

- *to test medicine; cosmetics; to breed; to raise for meat; to kill for fur; to hunt; exotic pets.*
- *to look after; to abandon, to transport; trade; immoral; aware; wild.*
- *The monkeys and turtles are just snatched from the wild. It's so **immoral!***



Vocabulary

unique

power of speech

complex communication

cognitive functions

incapable of

to test medicine

cosmetics

to breed

to raise for meat

to kill for fur

to hunt

exotic pets

to look after

to abandon

to transport

trade

immoral

aware

wild

