

# Trophy hunting

READING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_3023R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



lingoda






## Goals

- Can read and understand a factual text about trophy hunting.
- Can identify the controversial elements of trophy hunting and present my own views on it as part of a discussion on wildlife conservation.





**Trophy hunting** is the hunting of wild game or animals for recreation, and the keeping of the animal's body or head as a trophy.

It may sound a **gruesome tradition**, but trophy hunting has got a loyal and dedicated fan club. There are two sides to every story...



## Animal rights

**How do people treat animals in your home country? Is hunting popular? Do many people keep pets? Is there a strong animal rights movement?**

**Give your teacher an overview of the situation.**



hunting

fishing

domestic  
animals

farming



## Vegetarianism

**Are you a vegetarian or do you know anyone who is one? Would you ever become a vegetarian? Why or why not?**



ethical

environment

health

animal rights



## Trophy hunting

**What do you already  
know about trophy  
hunting?**





## Trophy hunting



When the American dentist Dr Walter Palmer took a trip to Zimbabwe in 2015, he had no idea how much this trip was going to alter the course of his life. He left the United States as an ordinary member of the public and within a few weeks of his return he had made headline news around the world. He became a **vilified** figure, received countless death threats and was eventually forced to close his own dental practice out of fears for the safety of himself and his staff.



## Cecil the lion



Dr Walter Palmer is a **trophy hunter**, a person who hunts wild game and animals as a **recreational sport**. After a successful hunt, a trophy hunter will typically keep the animal, or part of the animal and display it as a trophy to celebrate their hunting **prowess**.

On this particular trip to Zimbabwe, Dr Palmer **tracked** and killed a lion. However, this was no ordinary **feline** king. This particular lion was named Cecil, and was one of the best-known animals in Hwange National Park. He was extremely popular with visitors to the park and also wore a tracking collar, since he was also being **monitored** as part of a conservation study by scientists from the University of Oxford at the time.





## Vocabulary game

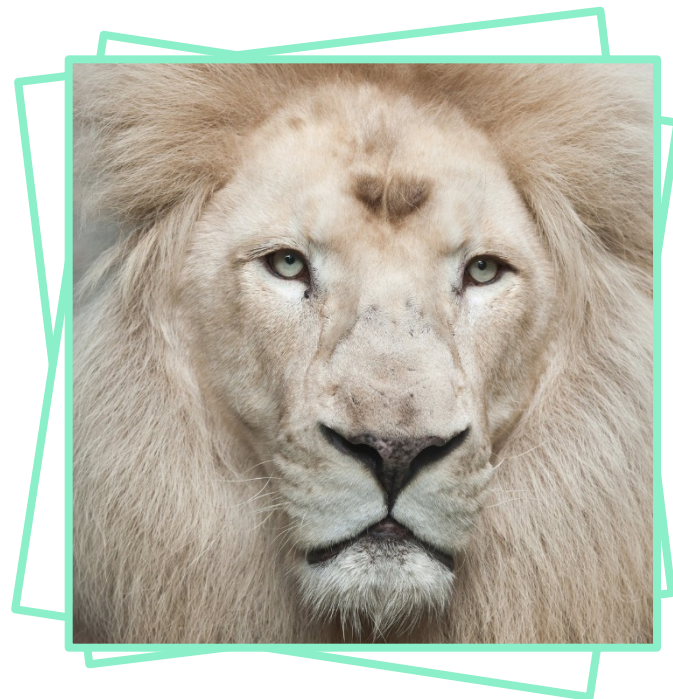
Look at the words and phrases from the text on the cards below. Your teacher will give a definition for each and you will have to guess which word (s)he is talking about:





## What do you think?

Does trophy hunting appeal to you? Why or why not? What is your **gut reaction** to the story about Cecil the lion?





## Trip of a lifetime

Going on safari in Africa is on many people's list of dream holidays. Look at the dream trips below. Do they appeal to you? Why or why not?



Swimming with dolphins

Travelling by boat down the Amazon river

Climbing Mount Everest

Diving to see the Great Barrier Reef



## A viral story

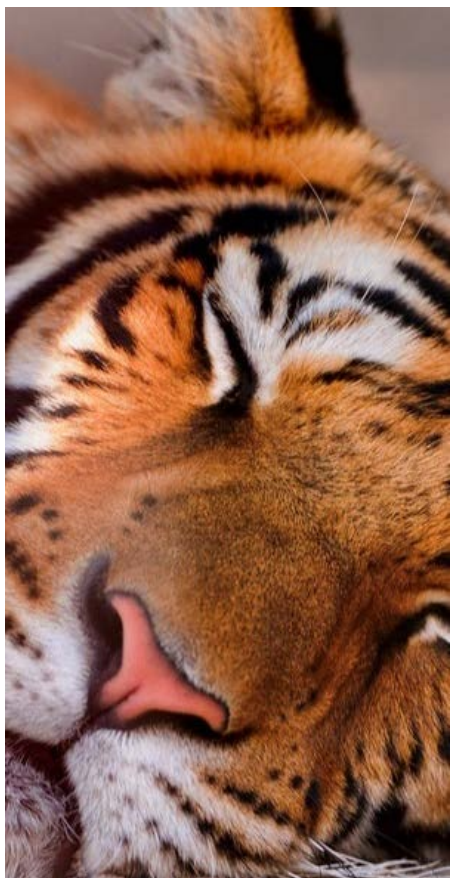
When news of Cecil's death broke, the story quickly **went viral**; it **spread like wildfire** across the globe and was met with fierce **outcry** on social media and news outlets alike. People were shocked at the idea of a man killing an endangered animal – not out of self-defence, but just for fun.

Although the story sent **shock waves** around the world and has certainly made a huge impact on the life of Dr Palmer, in actual fact trophy hunting isn't a new **phenomenon**. Many people were surprised to discover that in actual fact, in killing Cecil, the American dentist hadn't broken any laws nor committed any kind of crime.

Trophy hunting has been a popular sport for centuries, but today it has become an extremely **divisive** issue. In the case of Cecil the lion's killing, while the general public were **up in arms**, there were actually some conservationists who came out on the side of Dr Palmer in support of trophy hunting.



## Financial benefits



In some African countries, Zimbabwe included, as bizarre as it may sound, trophy hunting is sometimes **promoted** as a way to help conservation. Since most people coming to hunt are wealthier westerners, they tend to support the local economies and pay large fees for the right to kill animals within national parks. In this way, there's a huge economic **incentive** for local people to protect wildlife which in turn can actually boost conservation efforts.



**Look at the words and phrases from the text on the cards below and check their meaning. Make a sentence with each!**

phenomenon

to promote

divisive

shockwaves

to go viral

up in arms

incentive

outcry

to spread like wildfire





## Going viral

Look at the cards below, they are all examples of stories that went viral. What does it mean to go viral? Why do you think these particular stories went viral? What was it about them that resonated with people?



The hunting of Cecil the lion by the American dentist

A little boy in Australia who makes teddy bears for cancer patients



The photo of a female protestor standing peacefully, surrounded by riot police

The video of the starving polar bear on iceless land



## Going viral – the downside

**In the previous slide you came up with reasons why something might go viral. However, there can be a downside to stories that spread so quickly. Look at the cards below for inspiration and discuss the potential downside or problems with a story going viral. In what ways could the case of Cecil the lion be argued to be a negative example?**



inaccurate information

journalistic  
angle

emotion versus  
logic

violent reaction

internet trolls



## A question of benefits

In order for trophy hunting to benefit conservation financially, wildlife parks must be effectively managed. Furthermore, when governments or big businesses behind wildlife park management fail to pass on any economic benefits to the local community then trophy hunting quickly loses its advantages.

Animals rights activists claim that trophy hunting is **outdated** and cruel; some campaigners for social justice also take issue with trophy hunting since it **prioritises** the rights of wealthy, **privileged** westerners over local people, who according to law are normally not allowed to hunt big **game** in the area. This idea of having one rule for the local community and another rule for outsiders can cause tension.



## Cecil's legacy



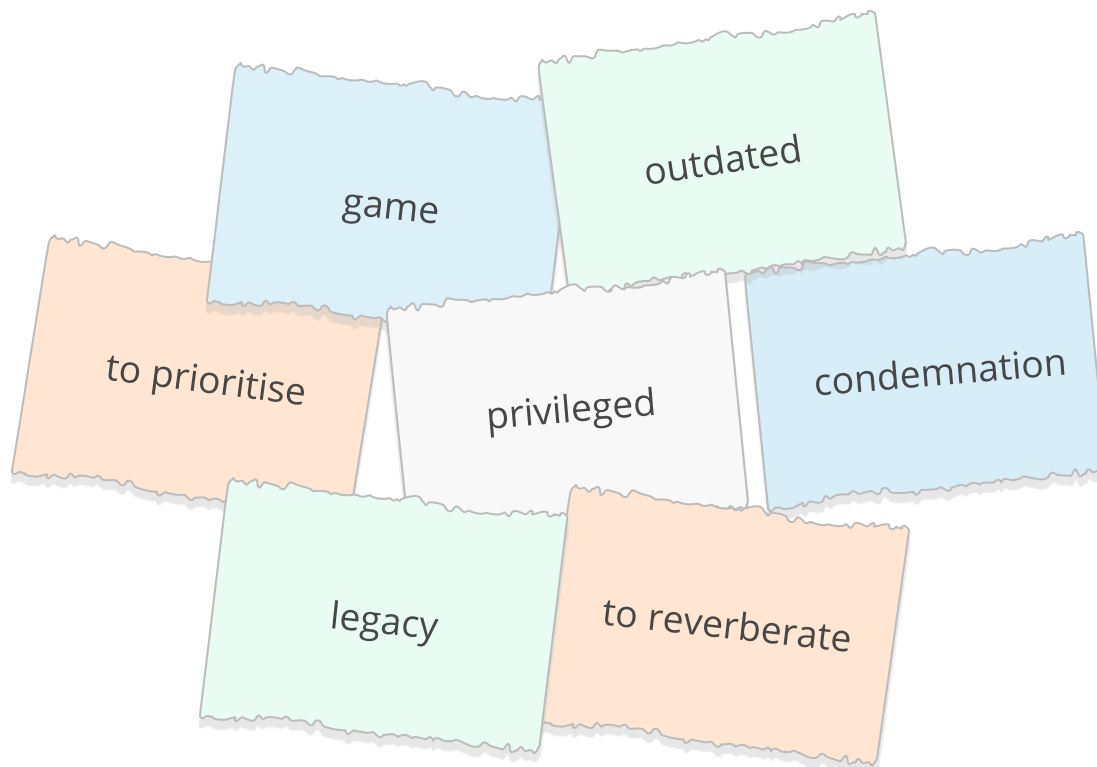
However, when it came to the killing of Cecil the lion, worldwide **condemnation** was so strong that Dr Palmer was forced to issue several apologies for his actions and has only recently reopened his dental practice. Cecil's **legacy** has also meant that there have been calls for no hunting zones to be placed within national parks.

Furthermore, such was the negative reaction that **reverberated** around the world that many countries have since banned the import of wild animal trophies, and several international airlines have also updated their policies so as to refuse to transport them.



## Vocabulary challenge

**Look at the words and phrases from the text on the cards below. Check their meaning with your teacher. Can you give a definition with less than 10 words for each of them?**





## Trophy hunting - a boost for conservation or a bad move?

**Take a moment to consider the issues raised in the text in relation to trophy hunting. Think back to the previous activity where you explained your gut reaction to Cecil's story. Answer the questions below with as much detail as you can.**

1. Can you explain in your own words what trophy hunting is and the arguments for and against this activity?
2. Thinking about both sides of the argument, what is your opinion on the matter? Do you think trophy hunting should be allowed?
3. If trophy hunting continues as a practice, do you think that there should be increased rules and sanctions in place to protect the animals and local communities?







## Inequality

One of the problems with trophy hunting is that it emphasises the inequality between wealthy western visitors to Africa and local communities. Look at the cards below for inspiration. Take each in turn and discuss this issue of inequality with your teacher.





## Imagine you are a journalist

**Imagine you are a journalist writing a feature on trophy hunting. You have lined up interviews with Dr Walter Palmer, a local man who acts as a guide on trophy hunts in Zimbabwe, and an animal rights activist who is opposed to trophy hunting.**

- Think about the different questions you would like to ask each person, reflecting on the different issues raised in the lesson.
- After you have played the role of journalist you can also swap with your teacher and play the part of each different person!



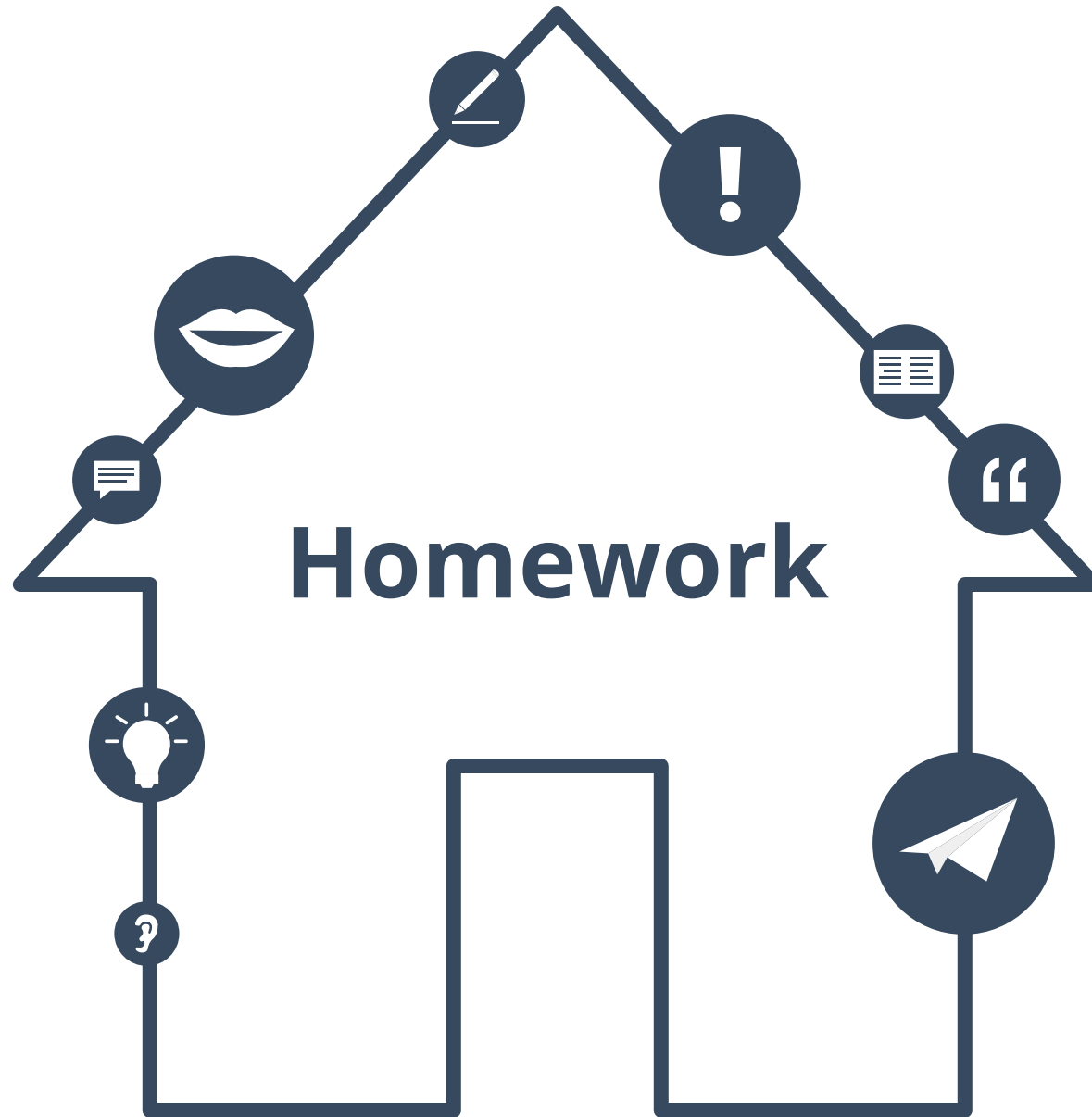


## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

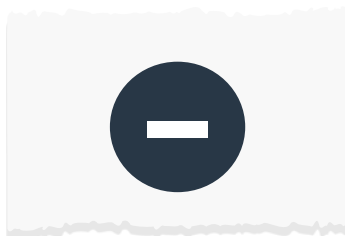






## Homework evaluation activity

**How did you find this class? Which parts were easiest? Which were most challenging? Give your feedback here.**





## A letter to the editor

**Write a brief letter to your local magazine outlining your point of view on the story of Cecil the lion.**

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○	Dear Sir/Madam,
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