

COMMUNICATION

Are zoos morally right?

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1063X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can read a text about the purpose of zoos and summarise the key points in it.
- I can give arguments for and against zoos and give clear reasons to support my views.



Warm-up

Read the facts about zoos below.



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.





Discuss

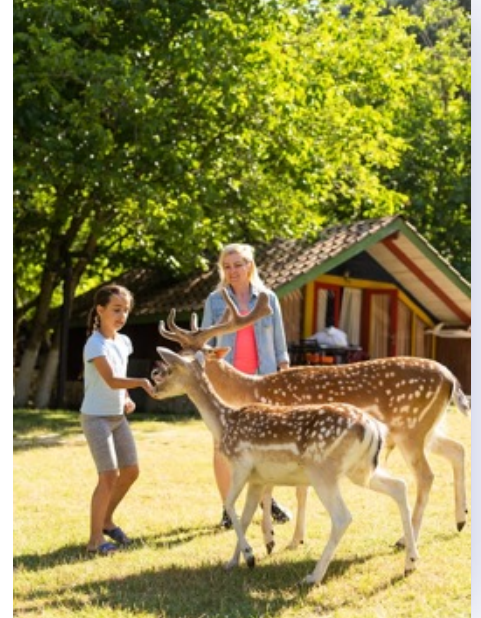
Do any of the facts on the previous page surprise you?



Is there a zoo where you live?

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**.



1. Summarise the first argument in favour of zoos.

Why should animals be kept in zoos?

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.



2. Give two more arguments in favour of zoos.



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 The _____ of animals in zoos should be a priority, so they need spacious and clean enclosures and appropriate food.
- 2 A _____ programme is an important way for zoos to ensure endangered species have offspring and don't die out.
- 3 Zoos can help endangered animals by raising _____ of their problems in the wild.
- 4 Enclosures in a zoo should look as close as possible to the natural _____ of the animal.
- 5 _____ zoos are ones which have been checked and meet international standards.

accredited
breeding
habitat
awareness
welfare



Discuss

How often did you go to the zoo as a child?



Do you think zoos raise awareness about animals or not?

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.



1. Summarise the two arguments against zoos.

Why shouldn't animals be kept in zoos?

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**.



2. Summarise the final argument against zoos.



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 It is important for animals to have _____ to keep them calm and happy.
- 2 It is difficult to _____ animals bred in captivity into the wild.
- 3 A _____ is a structure with bars in which zoo animals are often kept.
- 4 Some people argue that animals should not be kept in _____.

captivity
release
stimulation
cage



Discuss

Should humans have the right to use animals for entertainment?



Are zoos still necessary nowadays or not?



Justifying an opinion

- Here are some phrases to **justify an opinion**.
- They allow you to **give reasons** or **evidence**.

Phrase	Example
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.
Owing to the fact that...	Owing to the fact that zoos have a high entertainment value...





Preparing for a debate

Get ready for a debate on the next slide!

Your teacher will now divide you into two groups: **for** or **against** having zoos.

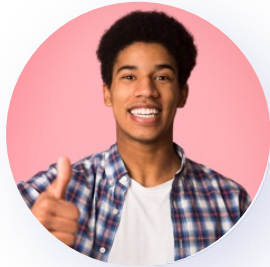
In breakout rooms, **work together** and **write** a list of arguments supporting your point of view.





Time to debate!

Debate the issue using the notes you prepared. Remember to **justify** your opinions!

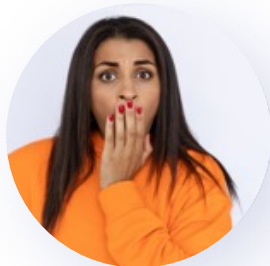


Group 1

You are in
favour of
keeping
animals in zoos.

Zoos protect endangered species!

*We should never keep wild animals in
captivity!*



Group 2

You are against
keeping
animals in zoos.

- The reason I think this is...
- The main reason I feel this way is...
- Due to the fact that...
- Owing to the fact that...

End of the lesson

Idiom

on the fence

Meaning: not able to decide something

Example: I'm **on the fence** when it comes to deciding if zoos benefit animals or not.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 Some people believe zoos help _____ awareness about animal issues and, specifically, species that are endangered.
- 2 Others, however, are concerned by the lack of animal _____ at some zoos, where animals are forced to live in poor conditions.
- 3 Animals that live in _____ often are never _____ back into the wild.
- 4 Larger animals, such as lions and bears, shouldn't be kept in small _____ with little room to move around.
- 5 Many zoos run breeding _____ to help increase numbers of endangered or critically endangered species.

captivity
released
welfare
programmes
cages
raise



Discuss

Should we release all zoo animals back into the wild or not?



What problems could this solution cause?





Write a list

Write 5 ideas for how to stop animal cruelty in zoos.

Compare your list with a partner's.







Answer key

P. 7:

1. welfare
2. breeding
3. awareness
4. habitat
5. accredited

P. 11:

1. stimulation
2. release
3. cage
4. captivity

P. 19:

1. raise
2. welfare
3. captivity, released
4. cages
5. programmes



Summary

Arguments in favour of zoos

- *welfare; conscious of; diversity; to raise awareness; conservation; endangered species; to preserve.*
- *Human contact means we are more connected with animals and more invested in their **welfare**.*

Arguments against zoos

- *in captivity; stimulation; to capture; to release; cages; empathy.*
- *Keeping animals **in captivity** forces them to live in an environment that's not their natural one.*

Justifying an opinion

- *The reason I think this is...*
- *The main reason I feel this way is....*
- *Due to the fact that...*
- *Owing to the fact that...*



Vocabulary

welfare

conscious of

diversity

to raise awareness

conservation

endangered species

to preserve

in captivity

stimulation

to capture

to release

cages

empathy

The reason I think this is...

The main reason I feel this way is....

Due to the fact that...

Owing to the fact that...

