What would you say is the main characteristic of porpoises?

There has long been a superstition among mariners that porpoises will save drowning men by pushing them to the surface or protect them from sharks by surrounding them in defensive formation.

Marine Studio biologists have pointed out that, however intelligent they may be, it is probably a mistake to credit dolphins with any motive for lifesaving.

On the occasions when they have pushed to shore an unconscious human being, they have much more likely done it out of curiosity or for sport, as in riding the bow waves of a ship.

In 1928, some porpoises were photographed working like beavers to push ashore a waterlogged mattress.

If, as has been reported, they have protected humans from sharks, it may have been because curiosity attracted them and because the scent of a possible meal attracted the sharks.

Porpoises and sharks are natural enemies.

It is possible that upon such an occasion, a battle ensued, with the sharks being driven away or killed.

Whether it be a bird, fish, or beast, the porpoise is intrigued by anything alive.

They are constantly after the turtles, who peacefully submit to all sorts of indignities.

One young calf especially enjoyed raising a turtle to the surface with his snout and then shoving it across the tank like an aquaplane.

Almost any day, a young porpoise may be seen trying to turn a 300-pound sea turtle over by sticking its snout under the edge of its shell and pushing up for dear life.

This is not easy and may require two porpoises working together.

In another game, as the turtle swims across the oceanarium, the first porpoise swoops down from above and butts his shell with his belly.

This knocks the turtle down several feet.

He no sooner recovers his equilibrium than the next porpoise comes along and hits him with another crack.

Eventually, the turtle has been butted down to the floor of the tank.

He is now satisfied merely to try to stand up, but as soon as he does so, a porpoise knocks him flat.

The turtle at last gives up by pulling his feet under his shell, and the game is over.

Porpoises possess a curiosity about anything alive (or with anything living).

In the UK, it’s a common superstition that walking under a ladder is unlucky.

Certain land animals have been known to stand in a defensive formation to protect their young or their territory.

‘I know how she committed the murder,’ said the detective, ‘but if her motive wasn’t greed or jealousy, I still can’t understand why.’

The football pitch was waterlogged, so the match had to be called off.

Someone threw a bottle, and then a mass fight ensued between the rival fans.

I just couldn’t put the book down because I was intrigued to know what happened in the end.

Those people are constantly having arguments.

There was a lot of pushing and shoving to get on the bus.

The pig kept sticking his snout through the wire fence.

As the boy bent over to tie his shoelaces, the goat lowered its head, charged, and butted him where it hurt!

The moment he recovers his equilibrium on the beam, he falls off again.

There is a superstition among mariners that porpoises will save drowning men or even protect them from sharks.

Marine Studio biologists have suggested that, however intelligent porpoises might be, this is probably not true.

When porpoises have pushed men ashore, the biologists say, they have probably done it out of curiosity or simply for sport.

Porpoises were once photographed pushing a waterlogged mattress to the shore.

As for saving men from sharks, curiosity may have attracted them because the smell of food (a man) attracted sharks.

Porpoises and sharks are natural enemies, and it is possible that they fought on such an occasion.

Animal lovers often say things like this:

'Our dog is very intelligent, you know.

He can ask for food or balance a ball on his nose, or come when you call his name.

Animal lovers, then, like to think that animals and birds are endowed with intelligence.

But are they?

Many animals, even wild carnivores like lions and tigers, can be trained to perform 'tricks' of various kinds.

In the same way, certain animals in the wild can 'do tricks' such as lifting logs or picking off bark to find insects, or 'disguising' themselves to deceive their prey.

Certain animals and birds, then, might be 'clever', but are they 'intelligent'?

And what about creatures that have a reputation for being intelligent, such as owls, which in the UK are often described as 'wise'?

In this instance, it has been proved that the owl is a particularly stupid bird, and far from 'intelligent'!

The problem is with the meaning of intelligence and intelligence.

One dictionary definition of 'intelligent' is 'having or showing powers of learning, reasoning or understanding, especially to a high degree'.

Perhaps, however, intelligence should include showing signs of original thought or problem-solving, and it seems that few, if any, animals are capable of that.

I can’t remember posting that letter last week, although I’m sure I did.

You should avoid speaking to those girls if you don’t get on with them.

Will you stop asking me so many questions?

Fancy meeting you here!

I can’t imagine him going to a disco.

Pardon my asking, but are you related to John?

I had no sooner put the phone down from ringing her than she rang me back.

She must have swum too far out and drowned.

Something got stuck in my throat and I nearly choked.

Someone fainted on the train today and remained unconscious for several minutes.

The two mothers chatted happily, quite unconscious of what their children were planning.

You have to be completely insensitive to other people to play loud music in the street in the middle of the night.

Curiosity killed the cat.

It took me a while to get used to the strangeness of my new school.

Pink and embarrassed, she endured the indignity of being rescued from the mud in front of a party of tourists staring in silence.

To avoid any hint of disrespect, most countries sent their most senior officials to represent them at the President’s funeral.

Increased sales tax will raise prices.

We rise at six in the morning.

Thousands of people packed the stadium to see the game.

Which is your favorite Shakespeare play?

Pneumonia eventually led to his death.

So you’ve finally decided to get married.

They are much more likely to have done it out of curiosity or for sport.

It’s rather unlikely that he will come now.

That’s a likely story, I must say.

He’s a likely person, I’m sure he’ll help you.

The men in the castle finally drove off their attackers.

When the sheep got into the shop, it took four people to drive them out.

The defending army drove the attackers back into the sea.

The shortage of bread will probably drive prices up.

They are constantly after the turtles.

The game is over.

You can’t see him now. He’s out.

When will he be back?

Our team will not be playing next week. The match is off.

The fire is out.

What’s on at the Regal today?

When the police surrounded the house, the two men finally gave themselves up.

The chemical compound gave off an awful smell.

I wish my friend would give back the money he owes me.

The writer of this piece probably believes that porpoises have a special interest in humans.

The stories we hear about porpoises suggest that porpoises take a special interest in us.

Porpoises often give turtles a bad time because they like to play.

Turtles seem to take part in this game played by porpoises.

The superstition among mariners has lasted a long time.

Hardly has the turtle recovered his equilibrium when he is knocked down.

The smell of a possible meal attracted sharks.

The porpoise is fascinated with anything alive.

One young calf especially enjoyed lifting a turtle to the surface.

The first porpoise dives down from above.