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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Words in the News

### Return of the lynx



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### Transcript

**Elusive**, shy and an excellent **predator**... but the lynx was hunted to extinction in Britain over 1,000 years ago.

Now, a conservation group plans to reintroduce the species to the wild. They say they aren't dangerous to humans, and claim that with an overpopulation of deer, the lynx will help rebalance the **ecosystem**.

But first, they'll have to convince farmers who think the animal would **pose a threat** to **livestock**.

#### Vocabulary

**elusive**  
difficult to find

**predator**  
animal that hunts and eats other animals

**ecosystem**  
all plants and animals in an area

**pose a threat**  
could cause harm

**livestock**  
farm animals

**Watch this video online: Return of the lynx** <http://bbc.in/1DVDqsP>

## Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

**elusive / predator / ecosystem / pose a threat / livestock**

1. Lions are among the fiercest modern \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Prof Stephen Hawking, one of Britain's pre-eminent scientists, has said that efforts to create thinking machines \_\_\_\_\_ to our very existence.
3. A new study suggests that the production of beef is around 10 times more damaging to the environment than any other form of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The huts, and the luxury items inside, belong to Dairo Antonio Usuga David, better known as Otoniel, one of the most wanted men in Colombia.

Currently some 1,200 members of the security forces are chasing the \_\_\_\_\_ gang leader.

5. The Sundarbans mangrove forests along the coastline of India and Bangladesh – a delicately balanced \_\_\_\_\_ that protects the densely populated Bay of Bengal from the worst extremes of nature – is home to the endangered royal Bengal tiger.

## Answers

1. Lions are among the fiercest modern **predators**.

**Source:** What was Earth's first predator and when did it live?

<http://bbc.in/1yPhYXH>

2. Prof Stephen Hawking, one of Britain's pre-eminent scientists, has said that efforts to create thinking machines **pose a threat** to our very existence.

**Source:** Stephen Hawking warns artificial intelligence could end mankind

<http://bbc.in/12kG7IT>

3. A new study suggests that the production of beef is around 10 times more damaging to the environment than any other form of **livestock**.

**Source:** Beef environment cost 10 times that of other livestock

<http://bbc.in/WuGGgV>

4. The huts, and the luxury items inside, belong to Dairo Antonio Usuga David, better known as Otoniel, one of the most wanted men in Colombia.

Currently some 1,200 members of the security forces are chasing the **elusive** gang leader.

**Source:** Colombia's hunt for elusive drug lord Otoniel

<http://bbc.in/1b9rTim>

5. The Sundarbans mangrove forests along the coastline of India and Bangladesh – a delicately balanced **ecosystem** that protects the densely populated Bay of Bengal from the worst extremes of nature – is home to the endangered royal Bengal tiger.

**Source:** Tigers, fisherman and the forest

<http://bbc.in/1GbOpVY>