

# An Animal Utopia?

Text Type: Debate  
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins



Listen!

Host:

[1] Mary, Sean, Ralph, welcome to the school radio. Thank you for being here to talk about your views on zoos with us. Mary, may I hear yours first?

Mary:

[2] Well, I wish they were all shut down! To confine animals to such small areas isn't humane. To keep them in cages is even crueller! If it weren't exploitation, I wouldn't know what to call it. Their animal instincts, like migration and flight from danger, are never respected. Those predators which are born and raised in zoos just couldn't take care of themselves in the wild as they lack the skills needed for survival.

Let's Think! 

1. Have you been to a zoo before?
2. Why are zoos popular in many different countries?

Sean:

[3] The same old complaints. No, no—animals are perfectly happy in zoos, their sweet homes! And haven't you ever felt grateful for the great economic opportunities the tourists have brought by as they are so eager to see the animals? Don't forget the zoos' role in education and promoting wildlife protection!



Ralph:

[4] You don't seem to be alert enough to see what the zoos have been hiding from us, for example, how imprisonment makes animals crazy! Wild elephants take a 40-km walk a day. Bears have to move around to explore their home range. However, animals in most zoos are forced to 'live' in absurdly minimal space. And you mentioned tourists—well, zoos are profit-driven, of course. They push the older animals to breed all the time, just because tourists find baby animals more appealing! They make profits with things that don't belong to them—I'm talking about the health and babies of the animals—what an ugly commercial move!

Sean:

[5] Many zoos have done a lot more than you and I do to prevent the extinction of the endangered species. And zoo animals usually live longer than those in the wild. Shouldn't you be thankful for all these, dear animal lovers?

Mary:

[6] To breathe is not to live. But to be happy and free is. Zoo animals often develop self-harming behaviours, which are rarely seen among wild animals. You talked about extinction, but as we all know, most zoo animals aren't even in danger of that. They are there as living exhibits. The public should find better ways to kill time!

## Looking into Grammar



The simple present tense is used to talk about habits, truths and natural laws. To talk about ongoing present events, the present continuous tense should be used.

✓ The cats **are playing** (~~play~~) now.

? Circle a verb used in the present continuous tense in the debate.

## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the debate. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. In paragraph 2, 'such small areas' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the school radio
- B. zoos
- C. cages
- D. animals' habitats
-  2. In paragraph 2, Mary thinks that zoo animals \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. should all be shot down
- B. are not victims of exploitation
- C. are defenceless in the wild
- D. can learn survival skills in zoos
3. In paragraph 3, Sean thinks \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. zoo animals have long been complaining too much
- B. the profit brought by zoos is significant
- C. without tourists, zoos will be forced to shut down
- D. zoos are a necessary part of a city's economy
-  4. Read paragraph 2. The word 'it' in 'I wouldn't know what to call it' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. shutting down all zoos
- B. caging animals
- C. classifying animals into their own groups
- D. respecting animals' instincts

5. In paragraph 4, what is Ralph's tone?

- A. irritated
- B. discouraged
- C. calm
- D. sad

**5** Pay attention to Ralph's use of punctuations and his word choice.

6. Which of the following speakers hold similar views on zoos?

- I. the host
- II. Mary
- III. Sean
- IV. Ralph
- A. II and III
- B. II and IV
- C. III and IV
- D. I, II and IV

**6** Notice that one of them holds a neutral stance.

### More to Take Away

Henry Doorly Zoo is one of the most top-rated tourist attractions in the US. With a size of over 52 hectares and a collection of more than 900 animal species, it is one of the world's largest zoos. It is also famous for its 'world's largest': the world's largest indoor swamp, desert, and rainforest!

### Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/✗)


- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the debate. For question 3, answer in complete sentences.


1. Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact (F) or an opinion (O). Write the correct symbols 'F' or 'O' in the spaces provided.

Statement	F/O
(i) Most zoo animals are not as free as animals in the natural environment.	
(ii) Keeping animals in zoos is an act of exploitation.	
(iii) Zoos are both educational and entertaining.	
(iv) Many zoo animals are not in danger of extinction.	
(v) The public should find a better way to kill time.	

-  2. Look at the following pronouns and answer who they refer to in the debate.

- (i) 'themselves' (para. 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ii) 'they' (para. 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (iii) 'us' (para. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

**2** A pronoun's referent may be specific.

-  3. State THREE negative effects that zoos have on their animals' physical and mental health based on the passage.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Focus on what Mary and Ralph say.

4. Look for words in the debate to match the definitions below.

(i) _____ (para. 2)	( <i>n.</i> )	the ways people or animals naturally react or behave, without having to think or learn
(ii) _____ (para. 2)	( <i>n.</i> )	the state of continuing to live or wanting to continue to exist
(iii) _____ (para. 3)	( <i>adj.</i> )	showing or expressing thankfulness, especially to another person
(iv) _____ (para. 4)	( <i>v.</i> )	to produce young animals
(v) _____ (para. 4)	( <i>adj.</i> )	concerned with earning money

## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of habitats from the word box.

plateau

desert

savanna

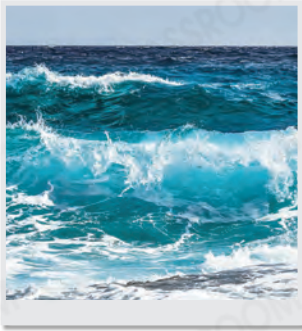
rainforest

swamp

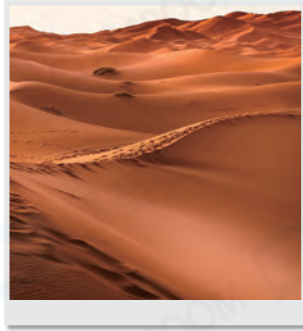
the Arctic

ocean

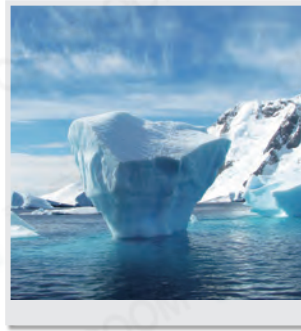
meadow



1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



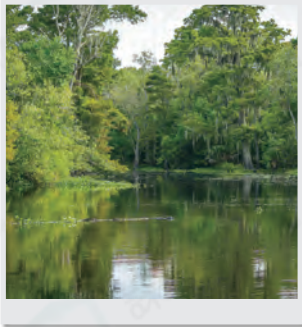
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



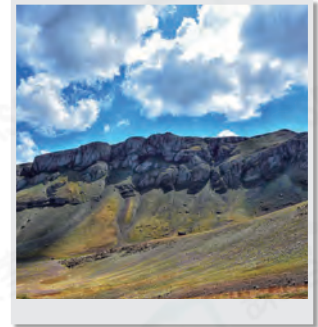
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Let's Discuss!



1. If you were an animal, would you rather be kept in a zoo with ample food provided, or lead a life in the wild where you would need to hunt for food by yourself?
2. Some people think circuses are crueller than zoos. Do you agree?

### Word Craft



**Extinction (Refer to P.100.)**

- e.g.** be in danger of **extinction**  
be on the verge of **extinction**  
lead to **extinction**  
face **extinction**