



Module D Unit 8

Training 1.1 (p.59)

Announcer : You are Amanda Cheung. Your teacher has asked your class to complete a mind map about pink dolphins. As you listen, complete the mind map below.

Teacher : Good morning class. As you remember, pink dolphins can be found in the rivers of the Amazon Jungle and in Southeast Asia. In fact, pink dolphins can also be found around Hong Kong and the river basins of mainland China. They bring joy to those who see them. So, why are they endangered? On our mind map, there're four main causes and effects on pink dolphins. Can anyone suggest a cause? Yes, Paul.

Paul : Um, pollution? ^① Pollution in the water comes from construction work.

Teacher : Very good. You're right. Pollution from construction work goes into rivers. As you know, there are quite a lot of construction work near the area. ^② Also, poisonous chemicals such as mercury pollute the rivers.

Amanda : How is mercury spelt?

Teacher : It's spelt M-E-R-C-U-R-Y, mercury. It poisons the water and kills the dolphins. OK, what other causes can you think of?

Paul : Boats can also harm the dolphins. ^③ There is so much boat traffic that the dolphins lose their sense of direction. They don't know where they are and they get lost.

Teacher : Good job, Paul. The increased boat traffic causes dolphins to lose their sense of direction. They use sound to find their way around. The sounds from

boats confuse them, so they don't know where they are. Any other causes? Yes, Amanda.

Amanda : Fishermen catch the dolphins when they use large nets to fish. ^④ Large-scale fishing is a huge problem.

Teacher : Good, that's true. ^⑤ Large-scale fishing means that the dolphins are caught and ^⑥ killed. How about the final reason why they are endangered?

Amanda : Is it because of people building dams which stop the flow of rivers? I'm not sure how it kills the dolphins though.

Teacher : ^⑦ Yes, dams destroy dolphin's habitat, ^⑧ and also separate big dolphin families.

Paul : So their habitat is destroyed and then big families are separated?

Teacher : That's right. Dolphins are more likely to die when they have to live in small groups or even live alone. So now we have all the information for our mind map. Good work class. *

Training 2.1 (pp.60-61)

Announcer : Now listen to a talk and complete the note sheet about giant pandas. Then help Amanda finish the first and second paragraphs of the report. Notice how the ideas are linked up in the first paragraph. Try to use the words and expressions you have learnt to complete the second paragraph.

Host : Good morning, everyone. This morning, we're happy to have Miss Jenny Yip with us. Miss Yip is the first Hong Kong biologist to work for the Chengdu Panda Research Centre in China. Welcome, Miss Yip.

Jenny : Thank you, Derek. It's my pleasure to be on your programme. Please call me Jenny.

Host : OK, Jenny. Let's start with our cuddly giant panda. I guess this animal is not new to Hong Kong people. You have worked with pandas for nearly 15 years, right?

Jenny : Yes. Hong Kong people love giant pandas. Just look at the crowds at Ocean Park at weekends! However, many people only know that they eat bamboo.

Host : What else do they eat then?

Jenny : ^{T①} They also eat plants and small animals.

Host : Plants and...small animals! I thought they were vegetarians!

Jenny : Ha! Not really. ^{T②} And most people don't know they live alone. ^{T③} In fact, only cubs are looked after by the mother panda. After they grow up, they all live alone.

Host : That's interesting. Is it true that they aren't very difficult to look after?

Jenny : Most scientists believe that giant pandas are difficult to take care of. That's why they are vulnerable. ^{T④} For example, they have a very low reproductive rate.

Host : I see. I know a female panda only gives birth to one to two cubs each time.

Jenny : Yes. ^{T⑤} Apart from the low reproductive rate, they face the loss of their habitat. When I was working at the Chengdu Panda Research Centre, a scientist told me that wild giant pandas are not good at adapting to the new living environment.

Host : I thought they could live in bamboo forests.

Jenny : The truth is giant pandas are quite picky about food. Bamboo makes up most of their diet, ^{T⑤} but they only eat a few types of bamboo. So that's why they have trouble finding food.

Host : I see.

Jenny : Still, I'm glad to tell you the number of giant pandas is increasing. ^{T⑥} There were around 1,000 giant pandas in 1985. ^{T⑦} But in a recent study in 2004, the number had increased to 1,600.

Host : That's a great news.

Jenny : Yes, it is.

Host : OK, thanks for sharing with us so much information about the giant pandas today Jenny. *

Training 2.2 (pp.62-63)

Announcer : Situation.

You are Daniel Liu. Your teacher has asked you to write a report about shark finning. You are listening to a radio drama. As you listen, fill in the note sheet below. Then read the Data File and complete the task on the next page.

You now have two minutes to read the note sheet and the Data File.

Ivan : Lucy, we should talk about what food we're serving at our wedding banquet. We need to prepare the menu and get it printed.

Lucy : You're right. It's not long now until our big day. I want our guests to have a really great feast.

Ivan : Yes, we should serve them a great banquet. Even your cousins from Canada are coming and I want them to enjoy the best of Hong Kong food.

Lucy : Absolutely! We should have Peking duck and roast pork and of course lobster and abalone. We have to serve shark's fin soup as well. It's a tradition at weddings.

Ivan : Um, I was going to talk to you about that. I agree with most of the dishes except the shark's fin soup.

Lucy : What? Why don't you think we should have that?

Ivan : Well, I have been reading about the shark's fin trade. It's really cruel. ^{T②} The sharks' fins are cut off while the sharks are still alive. ^{T③} Then the finless sharks are thrown back into the sea. But the sharks die because they can no longer swim and hunt for food.

Lucy : Oh, I didn't realise it was so cruel. The fins are cut off while they're still alive? I thought the sharks were dead when their fins were cut off. But why don't most people know how cruel it is?

Ivan : I think there's a lack of awareness. We need to tell more people about it. ^{T④} If more people stop serving and eating shark's fin soup, it will become less popular.

Lucy ^{T⑤} : Yes, then the demand for shark's fins will decrease. And then probably people will stop hunting sharks for their fins.

Ivan : Exactly. Less demand will lead to less shark hunting. But you know, I think we should let our guests know why we're not serving shark's fin soup.

Lucy : I agree. Let's send an email to our guests and add a link to the SPCA's website about the shark's fin trade. ^{T⑥} We can help protect the sharks by telling others about the cruel way of obtaining the fins.

Ivan ^{T⑦} : Good idea. I think we can also join public campaigns against shark finning. We should let the public know the truth.

Lucy : Great. But...what will we serve our guests instead of shark's fin soup?

Ivan ^{T⑧} : That's no problem. We can serve fake shark's fin soup. It tastes the same but has no shark's fins in it.

Lucy : That's a good idea! *