

### A Describing animals and birds

<i>word</i>	<i>definition and/or examples</i>
<b>mammal</b>	animal that gives birth to live babies, not eggs, and feeds them on its own milk (e.g. cat, cow, kangaroo)
<b>rodent</b>	e.g. mouse, rat
<b>reptile</b>	e.g. snake, lizard
<b>carnivore</b>	animal that eats meat (e.g. lion, tiger)
<b>herbivore</b>	animal that eats grass/vegetation (e.g. deer, cow)
<b>predator</b>	animal that hunts/eats other animals (e.g. eagle, lion, shark)

### B Describing typical animal behaviour

<i>word</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>example</i>
<b>docile</b>	behaves very gently	Our old cat is a very docile creature.
<b>tame</b>	not afraid of humans	These birds are so tame, they will sit on your hand.
<b>domesticated</b>	lives with or is used by humans	Dogs and cats became domesticated thousands of years ago.
<b>wild</b>	opposite of domesticated	There are wild cats in the mountains.
<b>savage</b>	extremely violent or wild	A savage wolf killed three of the farmer's sheep.
<b>fierce</b>	behaves aggressively	A fierce-looking dog stood in the doorway.

### C Where animals and birds live

As more buildings and roads are constructed the **natural habitat** for these animals is shrinking. [preferred natural place for living and breeding]

Some wonderful animals can be seen if you visit the big **game reserves / game parks** in Africa. [areas of land where animals are protected from hunting, etc.]

A **bird sanctuary** has recently been opened on the coast, ten miles south of here. [protected area where birds can live and breed]

We went to the local **animal shelter** to ask if we could have a dog. [place where cats, dogs, horses, etc. which have no home are given food and a place to live]

### D Human exploitation of animals and birds

Many people are opposed to **blood sports** such as foxhunting, cock fighting and bullfighting. [sports whose purpose is to kill or injure animals]

Nowadays, a lot of people refuse to wear coats made of natural animal fur since they are opposed to the **fur trade**. [the hunting and selling of animal furs for coats, jackets, etc.]

**Poachers** [people who hunt animals illegally] kill hundreds of elephants every year to supply the **ivory trade** [the buying and selling of ivory from elephants' tusks].

**Animal rights activists** often demonstrate outside this factory because animals are used in experiments there. [people who actively campaign for the protection and rights of animals]

# Exercises

**37.1** Rewrite the underlined expressions in these sentences using more technical terms.

- 1 There are dozens of different types of squirrels, mice and things like that living in the woods.
- 2 A whale isn't a fish, it doesn't lay eggs. It's actually an animal that gives birth directly.
- 3 There are some interesting turtles and crocodiles and that sort of thing near the river.
- 4 Everyone thinks these animals eat meat, but in fact they only feed on certain kinds of leaves.
- 5 The mother bird protects her eggs from animals that attack them.

**37.2** Fill the gaps in these sentences using adjectives from B on the opposite page to describe gentle or aggressive behaviour, or the relationship between animals and humans.

- 1 Sheep are generally rather ..... animals, but the other day one attacked our dog.
- 2 The lions look very ..... with their huge teeth and large heads.
- 3 Elephants are ..... in several countries in Asia, and they work hard carrying heavy weights.
- 4 The dolphins are very ..... and will swim along with human beings.
- 5 I don't think ..... birds should ever be hunted. They should be left in peace in their natural surroundings.

**37.3** Here are the beginnings and endings of some words related to animals and birds. Can you fill in the missing letters? You are given a clue as to the meaning.

- 1 h.....t (natural home)
- 2 s.....y (protected place)
- 3 r.....e (protected area, often for big game)
- 4 s.....r (place for homeless animals)

**37.4** Answer these questions.

- 1 What do we call sports that deliberately injure or kill animals for pleasure?
- 2 What name is given to the activity of buying and selling elephants' tusks?
- 3 What do we call people who illegally hunt or catch animals or fish?
- 4 What arguments would animal rights activists have against the fur trade?

**37.5** Complete the following table. Do not fill the shaded boxes. Use a dictionary if necessary. In the noun and adjective columns, mark which part of the word is stressed.



<i>noun</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>adjective</i>
carnivore		
herbivore		
predator		
poacher		