

Listening skills practice: The Maasai and the lions - exercises

Listen to the speaker talking about the Maasai and the lions and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Do the preparation exercise before you listen. Then do the other exercises to check your understanding.

1. Preparation: matching

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–e next to the numbers 1–5.

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|
| 1..... | 20 | a. | How much does the average male lion weigh? (kilograms) |
| 2..... | between 2 and 4 | b. | How many years does a lion in the wild live? |
| 3..... | 180 | c. | How many cubs can a female lion have in one litter? |
| 4..... | 12 | d. | What is the fastest speed a lion can run? (kilometres per hour) |
| 5..... | 81 | e. | How many hours a day do lions spend resting? |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

- How did the Maasai people feel about lions in the past?
a. They strongly disliked them. b. They were not sure how they felt. c. They loved them.
- What is the aim of the Lion Guardians scheme?
a. To move the lions to a different, safer area. b. To protect the lions and allow experts to do research. c. To train local people to protect the lions.
- Why do the Lion Guardians tell local farmers where lions are?
a. So they can kill the lions. b. So they can take their cows to a different area. c. So they can protect their families.
- How do other local people feel about the Lion Guardians?
a. They respect them. b. They don't understand them. c. They are annoyed by them.
- Why did Olubi Lairumbe change his mind about killing lions?
a. He saw how dangerous hunting lions could be. b. He killed a pregnant lion and felt very bad about it. c. He learnt more about lions and realised he was wrong.
- How does Mingati Makarot know where the lions are?

Listening skills practice: The Maasai and the lions - exercises

6. How do Maasai warriors get a lion name, traditionally?
- a. He uses special tracking equipment. b. He uses his knowledge of the area and hunting skills. c. He uses information provided by his team.
7. How do Maasai warriors get a lion name, traditionally?
- a. By killing a lion. b. By having the characteristics of a lion. c. By doing something brave.
8. How has the naming tradition changed?
- a. Young men have to kill more lions to get a name. b. Young men can use their father's name. c. Young men are given special names without killing lions.
9. What do the Lion Guardians do to help people see lions as part of the community?
- a. Give people photos of the lions. b. Tell people stories about the lions. c. Give the lions Maasai names.
10. What is the key factor in the scheme's success?
- a. The Maasai have changed their culture but kept their identity. b. The Maasai can influence people from neighbouring areas. c. The Maasai have always wanted to protect lions.

3. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write a word or words to fill the gaps.

1. The Maasai people and the lions were enemies because the lions wanted to kill the tribe's _____.
2. Now, there is a new scheme to _____ lions.
3. The aim is for local people to manage and protect lions, without any involvement from _____.
4. The Lion Guardians learn a range of skills including how to manage _____ between humans and lions.
5. In the past, lost livestock was often _____ by carnivores.
6. If someone is going to carry out a lion _____, the Lion Guardians try to persuade them not to.
7. Olubi Lairumbe has killed _____ lions in his lifetime.
8. Olubi appeared on the Africa documentary _____.
9. Mingati's lion name means one who is _____ and doesn't lag behind.
10. Traditionally, after killing a lion, the warrior brings the lion's mane and _____ back

Listening skills practice: The Maasai and the lions - exercises

home as a trophy.

11. After the naming tradition changed, boys who wanted to prove their bravery were given _____ tasks.
12. Since the programme began in 2007, no lions have been killed in the area, compared to _____ in the neighbouring area.

Discussion

What's your opinion of the Lion Guardians scheme?

Is there ever any conflict between animals and humans where you live?

I think that ...

Vocabulary Box Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.