

Reading Comprehension

The world's biggest land-living animal is the elephant.

African Elephant

There are two types of elephant: the African Elephant and the Indian (or Asian) Elephant.



Elephants eat plants, not meat. This means they are known as *herbivores*.

Male and female African Elephants have tusks but only the male Asian Elephant has tusks. They use their tusks for digging for water under the ground, scraping bark off trees and occasionally fighting.

Elephants' ears are large and thin. Flapping them helps to keep the elephant cool. They also enable elephants to hear each other's calls up to 5 miles away.

Tusks can be up to 3 metres long and they keep on growing for the whole of the elephant's life, which can be as long as 60-70 years.

The African Elephant is bigger than the Indian or Asian Elephant, with bigger ears. Its skin is grey and more wrinkly than the Indian Elephant's. African Elephants have two finger-like tips at the end of their trunks, whereas the Indian Elephant has one. The Indian Elephant's back is more rounded and humped.

An elephant uses its trunk (which can be 2 metres long) to lift up food, suck up water then pour it into its mouth. An adult needs to drink around 200 litres of water every day. It also uses it like a snorkel, holding its trunk above water when it is swimming.

Indian Elephant

Being so big and powerful, elephants have no real predators, although lions will sometimes pick on weak ones or babies, if they get the chance. The main threat is from ivory poachers.



Female elephants are called cows. They have babies (known as calves) when they are about 12 years old and they are pregnant for 22 months.

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- 1 What is the other name for an Indian Elephant?

_____ 

- 2 What does **herbivore** mean?

- 3 Which type of elephant does not have tusks?

- 4 Write down **two** ways in which having large ears are useful to elephants.

- 5 The writer describes **three** ways that elephants use their tusks. What are they?

- 6 Compare African and Indian Elephants. Write **A** for African and **I** for Indian after these facts.

These elephants are bigger _____

These elephants have larger ears _____

Their skin is more wrinkly _____

Their trunk has one finger-like tip _____

They have a rounded back _____

Grammar

An apostrophe is used to show possession (that something belongs to somebody or something).

To show possession of a singular noun you add an apostrophe and an s at the end of the word. For example: the parrot's wings.

To show possession of a plural noun you either:

- add an *apostrophe* if the word ends in s. For example: *the rats' tails*.
- or add an *apostrophe* and then an s if the word does not end in s. For example: *the men's swords*.

Underline the correct form of the possessive noun:

- 1 Look at this! It is Egg's / Eggs' frying pan.
- 2 Don't lie there! It is Barnaby's / Barnabys' hammock.
- 3 All the rat's / rats' eyes were glowing red in the dark.
- 4 The buccaneers took the ladie's / ladies' jewellery.
- 5 The pirate's / pirates' boots were too big for me.
- 6 The captain stole the people's / peoples' gold.
- 7 The parrot's / parrots' beaks were bright red.
- 8 The parrot's / parrots' tail was green.
- 9 The children's / childrens' books were all about pirates.
- 10 The ship's / ships' cat lay asleep on the deck.



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Add the speech marks where they are needed in these sentences below. Don't forget there's always a punctuation mark before the final speech marks. It can be a comma, a question mark or an exclamation mark.

- 1 Where's me grog? asked the sailor.
- 2 Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight! squawked the parrot.
- 3 Walk the plank, you scurvy dog! yelled the pirate.
- 4 These land lubbers can't come on me ship, said the captain.
- 5 Where's Captain Morgan? asked the first mate.
- 6 Arrr! We be searchin' the Seven Seas, replied the pirate.



Add speech marks and other punctuation to these sentences:

- 7 batten down the hatches ordered captain roberts

.....

- 8 throw him overboard for shark bait said the pirate

.....

- 9 where s me booty yelled long john silver

.....

- 10 dead men tell no tales sneered captain barbarossa

.....

- 11 captain blackbeard is the most feared pirate in the caribbean whispered the cabin boy

.....

- 12 what do you want me old salt asked the captain

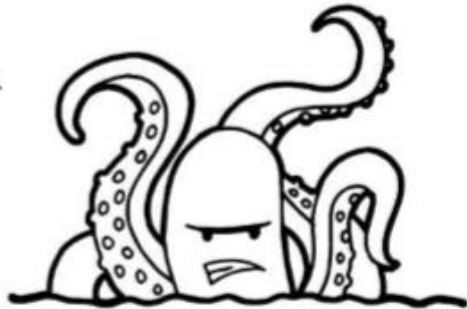
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Matching the parts of a sentence

The **subject** of a sentence tells us who or what the sentence is about.

Underline the subject in the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

- ① A large lobster nipped the sailor's bottom.
- ② A grey dolphin followed the ship to the island.
- ③ An enormous crocodile swallowed the pirate whole.
- ④ A hungry shark attacked the little raft.
- ⑤ A giant octopus lay at the bottom of the ocean.
- ⑥ The blue whale capsized the pirate galleon.



Writing

Write an imaginative story using the following sentence as your opening sentence.

The astronaut looked out of the window of his spaceship to see the moon had changed colour...

Think carefully about the following:

Punctuation

Descriptive vocabulary.

Expanded noun phrases.

Varied sentence starts.

Range of conjunctions.

There is a story planner below that can help you before you begin writing.

Story Planner

<i>Characters</i>	<i>Characteristics (description of appearance, age + behaviour)</i>

Settings

The Plot

(What will happen in your story?)

How will your story begin?

How will your story end?