



Ecotourism

Lesson code: TQPP-KJ9S-9QF

INTERMEDIATE

1 Warm-up

Study the definition below. Give examples of ecotourism.

ecotourism (*noun*): tourism directed towards exotic natural environments, intended to help the environment and observe wildlife

2 Key words

Complete the sentences below.

conservation domesticate fearful predator safe haven unintentionally

1. If you did something _____, you didn't do it on purpose.
2. A _____ is an animal that kills and eats other animals.
3. _____ is the protection of nature.
4. If you _____ a wild animal, you are able to control it.
5. If you are _____, you are afraid of something.
6. A _____ is a place where people or animals are free from danger.

3 Predict the answers

You are going to read an article on ecotourism. Decide if the sentences below are true or false and then check your answers.

1. Ecotourism is good for wild animals.
2. Ecotourism causes wild animals to relax around humans.
3. Ecotourism causes smaller wild animals to become less fearful of predators.
4. Birds that live in cities react very quickly when there is a danger.
5. Ecotourism creates a safe haven for smaller wild animals.
6. Humans can change the personality of animals.



THE
INDEPENDENT

Ecotourism harms wildlife because it 'domesticates' animals, says research

By winning the trust of animals, tourists unintentionally put wild animals in danger by encouraging them to relax with other humans - and natural predators.

- 1 The popularity of ecotourism is high as people look for ways to get really close to exotic wildlife. But while their dollars help pay for conservation, these trips often do more harm than good because they "domesticate" local animals. And this is dangerous because there's more chance of being eaten, research says.
- 2 By posing for photos, swimming with dolphins and generally winning the trust of wild animals, the animals relax with humans. And when they relax with humans, they relax around natural predators - who may not be so friendly, the study finds.
- 3 "When animals get used to feeling comfortable with humans, they may become more confident. If this confidence transfers to real predators, then they will be killed." Professor Blumstein says that ecotourism is similar to domesticating the animals.
- 4 Evidence has shown that urban foxes become less fearful, because of regular interactions with people. Birds that live in cities are already used to living near people, and they take more time to escape from danger, he says.
- 5 8 billion ecotourism trips take place around the world each year. Apart from raising money for conservation and local communities, ecotourism does have another benefit, says the report, which is based on an analysis of more than 100 studies into its effect on wildlife. The presence of humans can keep away natural predators. This creates a kind of safe haven for smaller animals.
- 6 But do more relaxed and bolder behaviours around humans put the animals at risk in the presence of their natural predators when there are no humans present?
- 7 "We know that humans are able to change the personality of animals," says the report published in Trends in Ecology & Evolution.
- 8 "If animals get used to humans - particularly tourists - we might cause unexpected changes, such as increased predation risk," they added. The scientists said more research is needed.

Article adapted from The Independent, by Tom Bawden, 09 October 2015

4 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. Why does ecotourism put animals in danger?
2. Why are urban foxes less fearful?
3. What is the money from ecotourism used for?
4. What effect do humans have on the natural predators of smaller wild animals?



5 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text with the correct prepositions. Complete the sentences below.

at for from in

- put somebody _____ danger
- escape _____ danger
- raise money _____ conservation
- put somebody _____ risk

- Animals that are too relaxed, take a long time to _____ .
- Ecotourism is one way to _____ conservation.
- If we get too close to wild animals, we can _____ them _____ .

6 Be/get used to ...

Look at the sentences from the text and the rules below.

- When animals **get used to** feeling comfortable with humans, they may become more confident.
- Birds that live in cities **are already used to** living near people.
- If animals **get used to** humans - particularly tourists - we might cause unexpected changes.

We use the structure **be used to something / be used to doing something** when we say that something is normal for us, not strange or new.

We use the structure **get used to something / get used to doing something** when we say that something *becomes* normal for us.

7 Practice

Complete the sentences below with *be used to* or *get used to* in a suitable tense.

- When James moved to London, it took him a while to _____ the rain.
- I come from the countryside, so when I moved to the city, I just couldn't _____ the fast pace of life.
- They live in Canada. They _____ hot weather.
- Working with his wife was a bit strange at first. But after a while, he _____ it.
- Jerry is a barman. He _____ going to bed late.
- Adele _____ eating spicy food. She's been living in India for almost 20 years.



Study the situations below and create a sentence using *be/get used to + -ing*.

1. Tony doesn't feel tired after jogging for 30 minutes. He does it every day.
 Tony
2. After a few months, it became normal for Grace to travel without her car.
 After a few months, Grace
3. When Kate took her first driving lesson, she was very nervous.
 She
4. Sam will work alone in his new job, but this will become normal for him.
 Sam
5. At first, it was difficult for Jason to live next to a noisy neighbour. But now it's not a big deal for him.
 Jason
6. When Mark started his new job, he had to get up very early. This was difficult for him.
 When Mark started his new job, he

Now answer the following questions about you.

1. Is there anything in your work or life that you are used to (which might be strange or difficult for other people)?
2. Think of a big change in your life. What did you get used to after a while? Was there anything you couldn't get used to?
3. Think of a difficult job. Imagine that you are going to start very soon. What will you need to get used to?

8 Talking point

Do you think ecotourism is a good or bad thing?

