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Vocabulary – Wild Animals

bat  eagle  lizard  skunk
cheetah  gorilla  monkey  tortoise
chimpanzee  leopard  rhino(ceros)  turtle

Questions for Discussion
1. Which animals are shown in the pictures? What do you know about them?
2. Have you seen any of the 12 animals listed above?
3. Which of them could be kept as pets?
4. Some of these animals are quite similar, and people often get them mixed up. What are the differences between... A. a chimpanzee, a monkey and a gorilla? B. a turtle and a tortoise? C. a leopard and a cheetah?
Complete the answers by adding prepositions to the spaces in A–G. Then match the questions and answers.

1. Do you prefer dogs or cats? ____
2. Do you have a pet? ____
3. Have you ever been bitten by an animal? ____
4. Have you ever been stung by an insect? ____
5. Have you ever ridden an animal? ____
6. What wild animals have you seen? ____
7. Do you like going to zoos? ____

A. Yes, a few times. I used to have a part-time job delivering newspapers. Dogs sometimes ran _____ me and tried to bite my legs.
B. I prefer cats _____ dogs. They’re cheaper to keep and more independent.
   Best of all, you don’t need to take a cat _____ a walk.
C. Yes, I have. I can’t remember it, but my mother says that I was stung _____ a bee when I was very young.
D. No, we don’t, but we used _____ have a dog.
E. Yes, usually. It’s better than watching animals _____ TV. But, if the cages are too small, I feel sorry _____ the animals.
F. Yes, I have. I rode a horse _____ a trip to Australia two years ago.
G. I’ve seen lots _____ birds of course. I’ve also seen some bats, mice, and deer.

Australia's Deadly Animals

<table>
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<tr>
<th>box jellyfish</th>
<th>great white shark</th>
<th>platypus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dingo</td>
<td>kangaroo</td>
<td>saltwater crocodile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emu</td>
<td>koala</td>
<td>Tasmanian devil</td>
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1 Which animals are shown below? What do you know about them?

2 Match the words from the listening with the definitions.

<p>| | | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>1. creature ___</td>
<td>A. a person who is walking (on or near a road)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. homicide ___</td>
<td>B. animal / living thing (but not a plant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. pedestrian ___</td>
<td>C. very unusual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. rare ___</td>
<td>D. murder / the crime of killing a person</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. remote ___</td>
<td>E. a kind of ‘cold-blooded’ animal (snake, crocodile, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. reptile ___</td>
<td>F. poison (that some snakes and insects produce)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. venom ___</td>
<td>G. far away</td>
<td></td>
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3 Making Superlatives

large → the largest  deadly → the deadliest  famous → the most famous
dangerous → the most dangerous
Listening

4 Listen to the passage and write the missing words in the spaces.

Australia ______(1) some of the deadliest creatures in the world. Perhaps the most frightening is the inland taipan, the world’s most venomous snake. Its venom is hundreds of ______ (2) more powerful than the venom of most rattlesnakes; one bite contains ______(3) venom to kill a hundred men. Thankfully, humans have very little contact with this snake because it lives in remote areas of central Australia. In fact, although Australia has the largest number of venomous snakes in the world, there are very ______(4) deaths from snake bites. There are about two deaths a year on average.

There are dangerous animals in the ______(5) that beachgoers need to be aware of. The most famous is probably the great white shark. An adult is usually 4 or 5 metres long and weighs about 1000 kilograms. ______(6) impressive creature is the saltwater crocodile, the largest reptile in the world. The saltwater crocodile is found along the coast of Northern Australia. Adults usually ______(7) to about four or five metres in length. Although both these animals are dangerous, attacks on humans are very rare. Together ______(8) are responsible, on average, for fewer than two deaths each year.

Of course, the most dangerous animal is man. There’s far more ______(9) of being killed by a person than by an animal. There are about 280 homicides in Australia each ______(10). The most dangerous kind of human is one behind the driving wheel of a car. Road accidents cause about 1500 deaths per year, including around 200 pedestrians.

5 Match the information.

1. inland taipan ___ a. the most dangerous animal
   2. Australia ___ b. the largest reptile in the world
   3. great white shark ___ c. the most venomous snake in the world
   4. saltwater crocodile ___ d. the most dangerous kind of human
   5. humans ___ e. the most famous marine (i.e. sea) animal
   6. drivers ___ f. the largest number of venomous snakes