

www.newsflashenglish.com

The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/11/16

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

The world is on the verge of the first 'mass extinction' since the age of dinosaurs. Species under threat include: elephants, tigers, gorillas and giant pandas.

The reasons for the decline include: poaching, habitat destruction, and egg stealing. The shocking findings, have been published by the WWF and the Zoological Society of London.

By the end of the decade (2020), seven out of ten of the world's mammals, fish, amphibians, birds and reptiles will have been wiped out according to the biggest ever report on the subject. The study assessed 14,152 populations of vertebrates. Numbers fell by 58%, between 1970 and 2012.

By 2020, the populations of vertebrate species, could have fallen by 67%, unless action is taken, by man, to reverse the damaging impacts of mankind. These impacts include farming, over-fishing, poaching, deforestation, the ditching of waste plastic, chemical and air pollution, and climate change.

Mike Barrett, director of science and policy, at the WWF-UK: "We face a global mass extinction of wildlife. We ignore the decline of other species, at our peril. For they are the barometer that reveals our impact on the world that sustains us."

He added. "It's a wakeup call for us humans, who are doing it. There is still time, to save many of these species. Man can stop this. Governments, businesses, and people can rethink, how we produce, consume, measure success, and value the natural environment."

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three species of animal or mammal that is under threat of extinction. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the organisation.
- 2) Give reasons, for the decline.
- 3) What do we mean, by 'mass extinction'?
- 4) Who is Mike Barrett?
- 5) By 2020, what might have happened?

Student B questions

- 1) What is a dinosaur?
- 2) Name three species under threat.
- 3) The study assessed how many, of what?
- 4) What did Mike Barrett say?
- 5) What does the figure '67' represent?

Category: Wildlife / Nature / Animals

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since... – 5th November 2016

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Mass extinction**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three species of animal or mammal that has become extinct. Write them below. Why did they become extinct? Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three ways to help save the world's wildlife. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class/ In pairs.

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

"Man can stop this" – governments, businesses, and people - how?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Are you worried about the mass extinction of wildlife?
- 3) What can YOU do, to help save the world's wildlife?
- 4) How can man save the world's wildlife?
- 5) Will man destroy the planet? Explain.
- 6) Do we face mass extinction?
- 7) Should we ignore the decline of species?
- 8) How can we control deforestation?
- 9) Do we need another war, to reduce the human population, to save the planet?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs.*

- 1) A student.
- 2) Mike Barrett.
- 3) A wildlife journalist.
- 4) A member of the Zoological Society, in London.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A wants to save elephants. Student B wants to save whales. How? *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class/ In pairs.

Prepare a 2-3 minute presentation on

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

Consider: Farming, over fishing, poaching, deforestation, the ditching of waste plastic, chemical and air pollution, climate change.

Allow prep time! Present it to the class

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do zoos solve the problem, of saving animals?
- 3) How would you reduce air pollution?
- 4) How would you solve deforestation?
- 5) What can we do, to reduce waste plastic reaching our oceans?
- 6) How can man, reduce climate change?
- 7) Should we stop over-fishing? What are the alternatives?
- 8) How should farming evolve to sustain man?
- 9) What should we do about poaching?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

The world is on the (1)___ of the first 'mass extinction' since the age of dinosaurs. Species under threat include: elephants, tigers, gorillas and giant pandas.

The reasons for the (2)___ include: (3)___, habitat destruction, and egg stealing. The shocking findings, have been published by the WWF and the Zoological Society of London.

By the end of the (4)___ (2020), seven out of ten of the world's (7)___, fish, (5)___, birds and (8)___ will have been wiped out according to the biggest ever report on the subject. The (6)___ assessed 14,152 populations of vertebrates. Numbers fell by 58%, between 1970 and 2012.

mammals / decline / verge / decade / reptiles / amphibians / study / poaching

By 2020, the populations of (1)___ species, could have fallen by 67%, unless action is taken, by man, to (2)___ the damaging impacts of mankind. These impacts include farming, over-fishing, poaching, deforestation, the ditching of waste plastic, chemical and air pollution, and climate change.

Mike Barrett, director of science and (3)___, at the WWF-UK: "We face a global mass (4)___ of wildlife. We ignore the decline of other species, at our peril. For they are the (5)___ that reveals our impact on the world that (6)___ us."

He added. "It's a wakeup call for us humans, who are doing it. There is still time, to save many of these species. Man can stop this. Governments, businesses, and people can rethink, how we produce, consume, measure (7)___, and value the natural (8)___."

environment / reverse / vertebrate / policy / success / barometer / sustains / extinction

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

The world is (1)___ the verge of (2)___ first 'mass extinction' since the age of dinosaurs. Species under threat include: elephants, tigers, gorillas and giant pandas.

The reasons (3)___ the decline include: poaching, habitat destruction, (4)___ egg stealing. The shocking findings, have been published (5)___ the WWF and the Zoological Society of London.

By the end (6)___ the decade (2020), seven out of ten of the world's mammals, fish, amphibians, birds and reptiles will have been wiped out according to the biggest (7)___ report on the subject. The study assessed 14,152 populations of vertebrates. Numbers fell (8)___ 58%, between 1970 and 2012.

by / of / on / for / the / and / ever / by

By 2020, the populations of vertebrate species, (1)___ have fallen by 67%, unless action is taken, by man, to reverse the damaging impacts of mankind. These impacts include farming, over-fishing, poaching, deforestation, the ditching of waste plastic, chemical and air pollution, and climate change.

Mike Barrett, director of science and policy, at the WWF-UK: "We face a global mass extinction of wildlife. We ignore the decline of (2)___ species, at our peril. For (3)___ are the barometer (4)___ reveals our impact on the world that sustains us."

He added. "It's a wakeup call for us humans, who are doing it. (5)___ is still time, to save (6)___ of (7)___ species. Man can stop (8)___." Governments, businesses, and people can rethink, how we produce, consume, measure success, and value the natural environment."

other / could / this / these / that / many / they / there

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since... – 5th November 2016



GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs

The world is on the verge of the first '_____,' since the age of dinosaurs. Species under threat include: elephants, tigers, gorillas and giant pandas.

The reasons for the decline include: poaching, habitat destruction, and egg stealing. The shocking findings, have been published by the WWF and the _____ of London.

_____ decade (2020), seven out of ten of the world's mammals, fish, amphibians, birds and reptiles will have been wiped out according to the biggest ever report on the subject. The study assessed 14,152 _____. Numbers fell by 58%, between 1970 and 2012.

By 2020, the populations of _____, could have fallen by 67%, unless action is taken, by man, to reverse the damaging impacts of mankind. These impacts include farming, over-fishing, poaching, deforestation, the ditching of waste plastic, _____ pollution, and climate change.

Mike Barrett, _____, at the WWF-UK: "We face a _____ of wildlife. We ignore the decline of other species, at our peril. For they are the barometer that reveals our impact on the world that sustains us."

He added. "It's a _____ humans, who are doing it. There is still time, to save many of these species. Man can stop this. Governments, businesses, and people can rethink, how we produce, consume, measure success, and value the _____."

www.newsflashenglish.com

Copyright D. J. Robinson 2016 (V3)

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class, list 20 species under threat. What part of the world are these animals/mammals in? *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Elephants _____
- 2) Man _____
- 3) The decline _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *First mass extinction of wildlife expected since dinosaurs.* Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) mammals
- 2) reptiles
- 3) zoological
- 4) decline
- 5) amphibians
- 6) verge
- 7) extinction
- 8) dinosaurs
- 9) gorillas
- 10) decade

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) vertebrate
- 12) species
- 13) could
- 14) deforestation
- 15) peril
- 16) barometer
- 17) businesses
- 18) ignore
- 19) success
- 20) environment

First mass extinction of wildlife expected since... – *5th November 2016*