

## Good morning Borneo!

You are fast asleep in your hammock in the tall green dense jungle when suddenly your radio alarm clock rings: The DJ yells, "Good morning Borneo! This is Radio Kalaweit. The news headlines; another three gibbons have been rescued..." Believe it or not this radio station in Indonesia actually exists! Playing vibrant pop music Radio Kalaweit broadcasts from a gibbon sanctuary deep in the Borneo jungle in Kalimantan Tengah. Kalaweit in the local language means gibbon. The station has been given the nickname *Radio Gibbon* - largely thanks to Frenchman, Chanee Brule, 29, who broadcasts part-time as a DJ on the radio station. His job is rather special. He is actually a conservationist who runs the gibbon sanctuary. His job helps save the lives of gibbons and re-introduces them to the forests of South-East Asia.

The Frenchman broadcasts on the radio station to help educate young people in the region about ape conservation. As a result he receives a significant number of tip-offs about gibbons that have been abandoned by their owners or are being illegally held as pets. It is all rather unconventional yet his broadcasts work. Some have even been rescued 30 minutes after their discovery. The result is the station is now the most listened to in Borneo. Certainly all this does put a whole new meaning into the term 'funky gibbon'!\*\*

The radio broadcasts are only a part of his work. Even more fascinating is the Frenchman runs a dating agency – for gibbons. The idea here is to get a male and female together and get them to mate. Brule and his team rescue these apes, caring for them at the sanctuary. But that is only the start of the work. Rehabilitated gibbons cannot be returned alone to the wild, as they will be attacked by other pairs defending their territory. So Brule attempts to pair up gibbons at the sanctuary, by match-making rescued apes.

Brule: "You can't put one male and one female in one cage and know for sure it will be a good pair. In particular one gibbon tends to dominate within each pair, and the dominant partner can be either male or female." He adds, "If both gibbons don't want to be dominated they will fight until one

**Category: Conservation / Borneo / Gibbons**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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dies." So Brule attempts partnerships between a more dominant and less dominant character. These pairs are then released into the forest together.

The Frenchman fell in love with gibbons after seeing them in a zoo as a child. He studied apes from a young age, producing a guide to their captive care aged 13. The guide that is still used today won him some funding to look at gibbons in the wild. He later received donations from famous film stars like Brigitte Bardot, which he used to set up the sanctuary in Borneo called Kalimantan. Today the sanctuary is mostly populated by gibbons with cute baby gibbons raised there.

Gibbons are among the most endangered of all apes, living in tropical and sub-tropical forest in and around China and India, including the islands of Borneo, Sumatra and Java. They belong to the lesser family of apes, and are tree-dwelling. The great apes include gorillas, chimps and orangutans. Brule: "Gibbons, the elusive singing apes of South-East Asia. At dawn, their magical love songs herald the start of each new day. Now, in Borneo, their songs are falling silent as their forest home is destroyed."

The apes are threatened by the loss of their natural habitat caused by deforestation. Vast areas have been cleared to make way for palm oil plantations. The biodiversity of the area is under serious threat, with six million hectares being lost. By 2015, this area will double. Many gibbons have also disappeared because of poaching, with the animals being stolen for the pet trade. Wild gibbons are the fastest and most agile of all the apes swinging distances of up to 15 meters between branches and travelling at speeds of 56km/h.

\*\* see page 8

## EXERCISES

1. **Borneo:** Think of three things you know about Borneo. Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography: Borneo:** Where is Borneo? What countries are on the island of Borneo? Draw a map on the board then look at Google maps.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page two - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - we need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to visit Borneo?

7. **Let's think!** Think of five reasons to visit Borneo. Then add five things you might do there. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five reasons to visit Borneo	Five things to do in Borneo
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's debate:** In pairs. Students A think growing palm oil in Borneo is ok. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

9. **Deforestation in Borneo:** In pairs think of three advantages and disadvantages of deforestation in Borneo.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1	1
2	2
3	3

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10. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score 1 point for each correct answer, and ½ point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the Frenchman.
- 2) What is under serious threat?
- 3) Where in the world will you find gibbons?
- 4) Describe how wild gibbons live.
- 5) What happens at dawn?

**Student B**

- 1) Name the famous film star.
- 2) What does the Frenchman run?
- 3) How does the Frenchman match a male and female pair of gibbons?
- 4) Sum up the Frenchman's fascination with gibbons.
- 5) The great apes include?

11. Let's chat! In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country on Skype! Chat about the gibbon animal sanctuary in Borneo and why you are interested in it? Momentarily there is a bad line. *5-minutes.*

12. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **Borneo** as you can. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

13. Let's talk! Radio Gibbon: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Imagine you are in the Radio Gibbon studio. One of you is the Frenchman Chanee Brule. The other student is a visiting journalist wishing to find out more about the work the Frenchman does at the sanctuary in the jungles of Borneo. *5-minutes.*

14. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 2 minute presentation on **the gibbon sanctuary in Borneo**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) I love Borneo \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Borneo \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Radio Gibbon \_\_\_\_\_

16. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Borneo**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

17. Quickfire: In a group in a circle. The teacher asks the class, "**I love Borneo because...**"

## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of deforestation?
- 3) Have you ever been in a jungle?
- 4) Have you ever seen a gibbon face to face? If yes, where?
- 5) Should the world be doing more to save endangered species?
- 6) What would you do to save gibbons from extinction?
- 7) What three things do you know now about gibbons?
- 8) Have you or will you be listening to Radio Gibbon?
- 9) Demonstrate what a gibbon sounds like!
- 10) Do you think the radio station in Borneo is doing a good job saving the gibbon?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Would you like to visit the gibbon sanctuary in Borneo?
- 3) What do you think of the massive expansion of growing palm oil?
- 4) Name three products with palm oil in them.
- 5) What do you think of what the Frenchman is doing?
- 6) Have you ever visited Indonesia?
- 7) What other animal species would you like saved?
- 8) Are you a conservationist?
- 9) Does this lesson make you want to save the gibbon?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Saving the rainforests of Borneo

*Allow 10-15 minutes - Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Brainstorm some ideas about saving the rainforests of Borneo. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative!

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Action plan – Three things at the top of your 'to do' list</li><li>2) How you would publicize what you are doing?</li><li>3) How you would help save the biodiversity of Borneo?</li><li>4) Identify animals under threat in Borneo</li><li>5) Palm oil protest you will make. To who? Who is to blame?</li><li>6) How you will help save the gibbons of Borneo</li><li>7) Three main 'aims' in saving the forests of Borneo</li></ol> |
|---|

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Good morning Borneo!

You are fast asleep in your (1)\_\_\_\_\_ in the thick (2)\_\_\_\_\_ jungle when suddenly your radio alarm clock rings: The (3)\_\_\_\_\_ yells, "Good morning Borneo! This is Radio Kalaweit. The news headlines; another three gibbons have been rescued..." Believe it or not this radio station in Indonesia actually exists! Playing vibrant pop music Radio Kalaweit broadcasts from a gibbon (4)\_\_\_\_\_ deep in the Borneo (5)\_\_\_\_\_ in Kalimantan Tengah. Kalaweit in the local language means gibbon. The station has been given the nickname *Radio Gibbon* - largely thanks to Frenchman, Chanee Brule, 29, who broadcasts part-time as a DJ on the radio station. His job is rather special. He is actually a (6)\_\_\_\_\_ who runs the (7)\_\_\_\_\_ sanctuary. His job helps save the lives of gibbons and re-introduces them to the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ of South-East Asia.

The Frenchman broadcasts on the radio station to help educate young people in the region about (1)\_\_\_\_\_ conservation. As a result he receives a (2)\_\_\_\_\_ number of (3)\_\_\_\_\_ about gibbons that have been abandoned by their owners or are being (4)\_\_\_\_\_ held as pets. It is all rather unconventional yet his broadcasts work. Some have even been rescued 30 minutes after their discovery. The result is the station is now the most listened to in (5)\_\_\_\_\_. Certainly all this does put a whole new meaning into the term 'funky gibbon!' The radio broadcasts are only a part of his work. Even more fascinating is the Frenchman runs a dating agency – for gibbons. The idea here is to get a male and female together and get them to mate. Brule and his (6)\_\_\_\_\_ rescue these apes, caring for them at the sanctuary. But that is only the start of the work. (7)\_\_\_\_\_ gibbons cannot be returned alone to the wild, as they will be attacked by other pairs defending their (8)\_\_\_\_\_. So Brule attempts to pair up gibbons at the sanctuary, by match-making rescued apes.

*sanctuary*

*DJ*

*jungle*

*conservationist*

*forests*

*hammock*

*dense*

*gibbon*

*territory*

*ape*

*Borneo*

*team*

*Tip-offs*

*significant*

*illegally*

*rehabilitated*

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Good morning Borneo!

You are fast asleep in your hammock in the tall green dense jungle when suddenly your radio alarm clock rings: The DJ yells, "Good morning Borneo! This is Radio Kalaweit. The news headlines; another three gibbons have been rescued..." Believe it (1)\_\_\_ not the radio station in Indonesia actually exists! Playing vibrant pop music Radio Kalaweit broadcasts from (2)\_\_\_ gibbon sanctuary deep in (3)\_\_\_ Borneo jungle (4)\_\_\_ Kalimantan Tengah. Kalaweit in the local language means gibbon. The station has been given the nickname *Radio Gibbon* - largely thanks to Frenchman, Chanee Brule, 29, who broadcasts part-time as a DJ on the radio station. (5)\_\_\_ job is rather special. He is actually a conservationist who runs the gibbon sanctuary. His job helps save the lives of gibbons (6)\_\_\_ re-introduces them to the forests (7)\_\_\_ South-East Asia.

**of**

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The Frenchman broadcasts on the radio station to help educate young people in the region about ape conservation. As a result he receives a significant number of tip-offs about gibbons (1)\_\_\_ have been abandoned by their owners or are being illegally held as pets. It is all rather unconventional yet his broadcasts work. Some have even been rescued 30 minutes (2)\_\_\_ their discovery. The result is the station is now the (3)\_\_\_ listened to in Borneo. Certainly all (4)\_\_\_ does put a whole new meaning (5)\_\_\_ the term 'funky gibbon'!

**most**

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The radio broadcasts are only a part of his work. (6)\_\_\_ more fascinating is the Frenchman runs a dating agency - for gibbons. The idea here is to get a male and female together and get them to mate. Brule and his team rescue these apes, caring for them at the sanctuary. But that is only the start of the work. Rehabilitated gibbons cannot be returned alone to the wild, as (7)\_\_\_ will be attacked by other pairs defending (8)\_\_\_ territory. So Brule attempts to pair up gibbons at the sanctuary, by match-making rescued apes.

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	hammock	11	dominant
2	character	12	partnerships
3	agile	13	particular
4	endangered	14	unconventional
5	dwelling	15	discovery
6	deforestation	16	sanctuary
7	poaching	17	conservationist
8	habitat	18	gibbon
9	travelling	19	rehabilitated
10	elusive	20	territory

### LINKS

Radio Gibbon first broadcast on the BBC: <http://www.mikebirkhead.com/RadioGibbon.htm>

Kalaweit radio: <http://www.kalaweitfm.com/web/news.php>

The Borneo project: [http://www.kalaweit.org/borneo\\_eng.php](http://www.kalaweit.org/borneo_eng.php)

Radio Gibbon stills: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cockroach/4096127837/>

Chanee's blog: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cockroach/4096127837/>

Kalimantan Tengah: <http://maps.google.com/> then type in the name...

**NOTE** – \*\* From page 1 – 'Funky Gibbon' is a term used in the BBC's 'The Goodies' comedy TV series from the late 1970s. There is a song called 'Funky Gibbon' recorded by 'The Goodies' of the same time period! People in the UK use this phrase in connection with this.

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Good morning Borneo! You are fast asleep in your **hammock** in the tall green dense jungle when suddenly your radio alarm clock rings: The DJ yells, "Good morning Borneo! This is Radio Kalaweit. The news headlines; another three gibbons have been rescued..." Believe it or not this radio station in Indonesia actually exists! Playing vibrant pop music Radio Kalaweit broadcasts from a gibbon **sanctuary** deep in the Borneo **jungle** in Kalimantan Tengah. Kalaweit in the local language means gibbon. The station has been given the nickname *Radio Gibbon* - largely thanks to Frenchman, Chanee Brule, 29, who broadcasts part-time as a DJ on the radio station. His job is rather special. He is actually a **conservationist** who runs the gibbon sanctuary. His job helps save the lives of **gibbons** and re-introduces them to the **forests** of South-East Asia. The Frenchman broadcasts on the radio station to help educate young people in the region about **ape** conservation. As a result he receives a **significant** number of **tip-offs** about gibbons that have been abandoned by their owners or are being **illegally** held as pets. It is all rather unconventional yet his broadcasts work. Some have even been rescued 30 minutes after their discovery. The result is the station is now the most listened to in **Borneo**! Certainly all this does put a whole new meaning into the term 'funky gibbon'! The radio broadcasts are only a part of his work. Even more fascinating is the Frenchman runs a dating agency - for gibbons. The idea here is to get a male and female together and get them to mate. Brule and his **team** rescue these apes, caring for them at the sanctuary. But that is only the start of the work. **Rehabilitated** gibbons cannot be returned alone to the wild, as they will be attacked by other pairs defending their **territory**. So Brule attempts to pair up gibbons at the sanctuary, by match-making rescued apes. (V1)

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