Animals and pets ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper intermediate) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- Tell me about a pet you have had or would like to have.
- What is the strangest animal you have ever seen?
- What are the good and bad sides of having a pet?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
captivity	being kept in a cage or a closed area, not free	Animals in captivity often live longer.
poaching	illegally hunting animals	Poaching has made rhinos very rare.
animal testing	using animals in experiments to test products	Many brands have stopped animal testing.
factory farming	keeping large numbers of animals indoors to produce cheap food	Factory farming is criticized for animal welfare.
free-range	(of farm animals) allowed to move around outside	We only buy free-range eggs.
domesticated	(of an animal) living with people and not wild	Dogs were domesticated thousands of years ago.
nocturnal	active at night	Owls are nocturnal animals.
hibernate	to sleep through the winter	Bears hibernate in caves.
migrate	(of birds and animals) to travel to another place each season	Swallows migrate to Africa in winter.
thrive	to grow and develop very well	These animals thrive in cold water.

Speaking (15 min): Convince the landlord

The learner wants a pet but the flat does not allow animals. You are the landlord. They must describe the animal, answer three worries (noise, smell, damage) and offer a compromise.

Useful language

- I'm scared of… / I'm allergic to…
- It's friendly / playful / fierce / harmless.
- in the wild · endangered · a species
- to feed · to walk · to train · to look after
- a kitten · a puppy · a cage · a lead
- She's part of the family.

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about animals and pets using at least six words from the lesson.
- Self-study: the B2 animals and pets vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Animals and pets (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

the elephant in the room · sanctuary · let the cat out of the bag · on the verge of extinction · the lion's share · killed two birds with one stone · Hold your horses · a fish out of water

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. The species is _____.
2. Money was _____.
3. I _____ and shopped on my way to work.
4. I felt like _____ at the party.
5. _____! Let's think about it first.
6. Who _____ about the party?
7. He gets _____ of the profits.
8. We visited an elephant _____.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Have you ever had a frightening experience with an animal?
2. Should people keep big dogs in small flats?
3. What animal would you like to see in the wild?
4. Do animals have personalities? Give an example.
5. What do pets teach children?

Write

Write 80–120 words about animals and pets. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 on the verge of extinction · 2 the elephant in the room · 3 killed two birds with one stone · 4 a fish out of water · 5 Hold your horses · 6 let the cat out of the bag · 7 the lion's share · 8 sanctuary