Animals

Pets and wild animals, what they can do, British wildlife, and the precise and scientific language of the animal world, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 27

it can climb · a pack of wolves · the elephant in the room

Pets and bodies *A1–A2*

dog	cat
rabbit	hamster
goldfish	parrot
tail	wing
fur	feathers
paw	beak
can fly	can't swim

It can swim (not can to swim) · birds have feathers; cats have fur

Wild animals *A1–A2*

lion	tiger
elephant	giraffe
monkey	bear
wolf	fox
deer	squirrel
owl	eagle
snake	frog

wolf → wolves · one deer, two deer · also butterfly, bee

Young, groups and wildlife *B1–B2*

Young: puppy, kitten, cub, foal, duckling, tadpole, (elephant) calf

Groups: a pack of wolves, a flock of birds, a herd of elephants, a swarm of bees, a pride of lions

Habitats: rainforest, desert, savannah, woodland, wetland

Sounds: bark · purr · miaow · roar · howl · hoot · buzz

Classes: mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, insect, fish

Pets: feed, walk, groom, take to the vet ·
Britain: badger, hedgehog, red squirrel, otter, red kite

*Hedgehogs are **nocturnal mammals**, and they **hibernate** in winter.*

cub for lions, bears, foxes and wolves; puppy for dogs

Science and idiom *C1–C2*

Who eats whom: predator, prey, apex predator, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore

Behaviour: nocturnal, migrate, hibernate, camouflage, disperse

Conservation: native, invasive species, endangered, domesticated, outcompete, cull

Idioms: let the cat out of the bag, the elephant in the room, a dark horse, kill two birds with one stone, hold your horses, a little bird told me, like a fish out of water, the lion's share, curiosity killed the cat, a wild goose chase

*The grey squirrel, an **invasive species**, has **outcompeted** the **native** red.*

endangered = in danger of dying out (not dangerous)

Talking about animals

- *Monkeys can climb, but elephants can't jump.*
- *It has got a long tail and soft fur.*
- *It lives in the forest and eats leaves.*
- *I'm afraid of snakes.*

Common mistakes

- ~~The cat has soft hair.~~ → The cat has soft **fur**.
- ~~two wolfs~~ → two **wolves**
- ~~a dangerous species~~ → an **endangered** species (at risk)
- ~~The owl caught a prey.~~ → The owl caught its **prey**.

Words with a past

- **hedgehog**: *hedge* + *hog*, for its pig-like snout
- **rabbit**: first a young animal; the adult was a *coney*
- **zoo**: short for the Zoological Gardens, London
- **porcupine**: spiny pig · **alligator**: *el lagarto* · **carnivore**: flesh-devourer

My new words

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