

TEXT 3 The Whale

Reading

1. Does your country border on a sea or ocean where whales can be found?
2. What do whales look like and which group of living things do they belong to?
3. Are whales killed because, like many sharks, they are dangerous? Do people get eaten by whales?
4. Have you ever used or eaten anything that comes from the whale?
5. What difference would it make if all the whales disappeared or if men stopped catching them?

Text

Para 1 1 Whales are sea-living mammals*. They therefore breathe air but cannot survive on land. Some species are very large indeed and the blue whale, which can exceed 30 m in length, is the largest animal to have lived on earth. Superficially, the whale looks rather like a fish, but there are important differences
5 in its external structure: its tail consists of a pair of broad, flat, horizontal paddles (the tail of a fish is vertical) and it has a single nostril on the top of its large, broad head. The skin is smooth and shiny and beneath it lies a layer of fat (the blubber). This is up to 30 cm in thickness and serves to conserve heat and body fluids.

P2 1 There are two main groups of whale – toothed and toothless. The former includes the dolphin, the porpoise and the killer and sperm whales; the latter the grey, humpback, right and blue whales. Some toothed species, like the killer, feed on other large mammals such as the porpoise, while others – e.g.
5 the sperm whale – eat smaller forms of marine life. The mouth of the toothless whale is adapted to form a kind of sieve in which tiny marine animals are caught by a filtering process.

P3 1 Most whales move about in schools. While swimming they take in air and dive vertically, sometimes to great depths. Large whales can stay under water for up to 20 minutes. They then surface and expel air from their lungs, making the characteristic spout, which is audible from some distance and can be seen
5 largely because of the concentration of condensing water vapour in the expelled gases.

P4 1 Different species of whale are distributed widely throughout the world, from the North Atlantic to the Antarctic, and they have been hunted by man for many centuries. The oil has been much prized for use in cosmetics, the manufacture of margarine, as a lubricant for delicate mechanisms and in the softening of leather. The meat is used for both human and animal consumption. Indeed, in Japan it has been a staple protein source for many centuries. Whale bone, in processed form, has commercial uses but its use as such to strengthen corsets has disappeared along with corsets as fashions have changed. There is one other curious product of the whale, ambergris. This is a wax-like secretion of the intestine, produced to deal with irritants, such as bones, which a toothed whale may swallow. It is sometimes found floating on the sea or lying on beaches in greyish or blackish lumps. It is used, in tiny quantities, in the manufacture of perfume, where it serves to fix and enhance the various scents employed.

P5 1 The commercial value of the whale has led to drastic depletions of whale stocks and pressures of many kinds are making it very hard to achieve adequate protection for certain species. In the talk, you will hear something of the history of whaling and of the present critical situation of this magnificent animal.

TEXT Study 3

A. Content skim :

1. What, in general, is the passage about?

.....

.....

2. Read the first sentence of each paragraph and decide on the probable topic of each?

Para. 1	.....
Para. 2	.....
Para. 3	.....
Para. 4	.....
Para. 5	.....

B. Comprehension Scan

Para. 1 Line 1	What do “They” refer to	.....
Para. 1 Line 2	What does “which” refer to	.....
Para. 1 Line 5	What does “its” refer to	.....
Para. 1 Line 7	What does “its” refer to	.....
Para. 1 Line 7	What does “it” refer to	.....
Para. 1 Line 8	What does “This” refer to	.....

Para. 2 Line 1	What does “the former” refer to	.....
Para. 2 Line 2	What does “the latter” refer to	.....
Para. 2 Line 6	What does “which” refer to	.....

Para. 3 Line 1	What do “they” refer to	.....
Para 3 Line 3	What do “They” refer to	.....
Para. 3 Line 4	What does “which” refer to	.....

C. Guided note-making

When you are satisfied that you understand the passage, complete the following notes :

Whales

1. Family:
2. Visible characts:
 - a.
 - b.

c.

d.

3. Main divs:

a.

e.g.

b.

e.g.

4. Food:

a.

b.

5. Behab.:
.....

6. Distrib.:
.....

D. Vocabulary development

Write down up to five words from the text to do with whales. Look these up in a dictionary; note the pronunciation beside each and write a brief note about the meaning.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Find the following link words used in the passage (either between sentences or within two ideas in the same sentence): **therefore, but, and beneath, while, then, indeed**; look these up in a dictionary; note their pronunciation.

Beside each write a brief note about their function within the text and some of their synonyms from the dictionary if there are any.