



## Speaking with Animals (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like watching documentaries about animals and their behaviour?
2. If so, which animals are you most interested in?
3. Do you think animals are able to communicate with each other?
4. If so, what do they use to communicate?
5. Do you know of any experiments on communication between humans and animals?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The translation of non-human communication is impossible at present.
2. Attempts to teach human words to animals began in the last century.
3. Human languages are translated using multi-dimensional geometry.
4. Earth Species Project is working on recorded data from several types of animal.
5. Project CETI is also studying various creatures, including bees and birds.
6. There are millions of animal species on earth, but opinions vary on the number of millions.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What has made it possible for apps to translate rapidly from one language to another?
2. What aspects of animal behaviour have scientists studied and attempted to interpret?
3. What made these studies difficult?
4. What does ESP use machine learning for?
5. What does it think the project will achieve?
6. What does Project CETI use to study sperm whales?
7. What other animals are being studied by experts?
8. How is the AI analysis of digital recordings described in the article?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. My grandfather's a bit deaf but he refuses to get a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It costs a lot to get a watch repaired. Watch repairers say it's a very \_\_\_\_\_ job.
3. The use of computers has made it possible to forecast weather events more \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ to finish the report last week, but it was more complex than we thought.
5. Tom was good at languages and this \_\_\_\_\_ him to get a job in an import-export firm.
6. Mia's an astronomer, so her friends gave her a birthday cake in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a star.

## E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

In the 1960s on a Caribbean island, an American neuroscientist, John C. Lilly, carried <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (off/out/on/over) experiments on dolphins and their ability to communicate with humans. <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (Together/With/Between/Among) other things, he organised English lessons for a bottle-nosed dolphin called Peter. A volunteer lived with Peter for 2<sup>1/2</sup> months in a house where the ground <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (floor/plane/pavement/stage) was filled with sea water. After a few weeks, the dolphin was <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (good/able/allowed/unable) to imitate human sounds and could follow instructions and perform tasks that the instructor <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (said/made/told/stopped) it to do. Later in the project, it learnt to distinguish between commands like: "Take the ball to the doll", and "Take the doll to the ball". Lilly suggested that the dolphin's ability to understand basic grammar <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (should/will/might/must) possibly mean that its own language contained grammar rules.

## F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Do you think it will be possible to speak to animals one day? Why (not)?
  2. If it became possible, what do you think the advantages would be for humans and animals?
  3. Would there be any disadvantages, in your opinion?
  4. Have you got any pets? If so, do you talk to them? Do they understand you?
  5. How do pets (dogs, cats, horses, etc.) communicate with their owners and with each other?
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## Answers: Speaking with Animals (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – People have attempted to do so for centuries. 3. T 4. T 5. F – It is studying sperm whales. 6. T

### C – Read and answer

1. A special form of AI called machine learning. 2. They have studied and attempted to interpret the signals, gestures and sounds of animals. 3. The work of observation, recording and data-analysis was time-consuming. 4. It uses it to check for alignment between animal sounds and signals and human language. 5. It thinks it will support conservation and change human relationships with nature. 6. It uses underwater microphones, digital mini-recorders, drones and robot fish. 7. Other animals being studied are elephants, mole rats, turtles, bees, birds and fruit bats. 8. It's described as a "planetary-scale hearing aid" to other species.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. hearing aid 2. time-consuming 3. accurately 4. aimed 5. enabled 6. shape

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. out 2. Among 3. floor 4. able 5. told 6. might