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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/08/15

## Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher

Recently, we heard the sad news that Cecil the lion had been killed by an American poacher in Zimbabwe. Dr Walter Palmer, a dentist and a father of two from Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, is now begging forgiveness. He said he didn't know he was breaking Zimbabwe law by killing the defenceless African lion, or for that matter that Cecil had been coaxed away from the game reserve he lived on.

Dr Palmer said he believed the hunt was legal and had "no idea" that the animal he shot dead was a "known, local favourite". He insisted his guides had "all proper permits" for the hunt. Two Zimbabwean men who were with Palmer at the time of the kill have since been charged with poaching following the killing of Cecil the lion. They are accused of luring the famous animal from a protected area so Walter Palmer could kill Cecil. The US dentist reportedly paid US\$50,000 to kill the lion. Palmer believes the trip was legal.

Cecil was wounded with a crossbow, tracked for 40 hours and then shot dead with a rifle. The 13 year old lion was then decapitated and skinned. He had a GPS collar on, so that researchers at Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit could track his movements.

There has been a huge public backlash. Social media roared into overdrive in an attempt to shame Dr Palmer. Within 24 hours of the news breaking more than 400,000 people had signed an online "Justice for Cecil" petition. #CecilTheLion got more than 250,000 hits in the first 24 hours on Twitter as the news spread. Dr Palmer also received death threats. The internet rage forced the lion killer to hide and close his dental clinic. A growing collection of stuffed lions appeared outside his dental practice in Minnesota. The hunter just became the hunted...

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about poaching wild animals in Africa. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What was the lion's name?
- 2) Name the country – Now spell it.
- 3) What is a crossbow?
- 4) Where is Zimbabwe?
- 5) What is a GPS collar?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Finish this sentence..."The hunter just..."
- 2) Name the dentist.
- 3) What did the dentist say?
- 4) Where were the stuffed lions placed? Why?
- 5) How was Cecil the lion killed?

**Category: Zimbabwe / Hunting / Cecil the Lion**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Cecil the lion**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - think of 20 different animals you might see in a game reserve. Discuss together.

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss and compare the class's findings.

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY - GAME

*In groups in a circle* - Play the following game:

"I went to an African game reserve and I saw..."

Students repeat what was previously said then add one more suggestion. Forget a previously said word and you are eliminated! Good luck! 10 mins max.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think of what you've read?
- 2) Was the dentist right to kill the lion? Explain.
- 3) Should hunting be banned? Explain.
- 4) Why has there been a huge public backlash over Cecil the lion's death?
- 5) What will happen to Dr Palmer?
- 6) Would you like to go to Zimbabwe to hunt and kill a lion? Explain.
- 7) Would you like to go on safari in Africa? Explain.
- 8) What can you do to help animals like Cecil survive?
- 9) Why was the American hunter allowed to kill Cecil the lion?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Cecil the Lion killed by American Poacher.*

- 1) Dr Walter Palmer.
- 2) A Zimbabwe government spokesperson.
- 3) Someone from the Oxford University Wildlife Conservation Unit.
- 4) Someone who uses social media and who is against animals like Cecil being killed.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

Poaching in Africa – Is it right? Yes / No

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What has been the reaction in your country about the death of Cecil the lion?
- 3) Should foreign hunters be banned from hunting wildlife in Africa?
- 4) Why do some people like to kill defenceless animals with guns?
- 5) What will happen to Dr Palmer's dental practice?
- 6) Is it right that someone can pay US\$50,000 to kill a lion?
- 7) Why do people like Palmer get a thrill from killing defenceless wild animals?
- 8) Would you kill a wild animal like a lion?
- 9) Do you know of any other poachers who killed African animals illegally?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### **GAP FILL: READING**

#### **Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher**

Recently, we heard the sad news that Cecil the lion had been killed by an American poacher in Zimbabwe. Dr Walter Palmer, a (1)\_\_\_ and a father of two from Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, is now begging (2)\_\_\_. He said he didn't know he was breaking Zimbabwe law by killing the (3)\_\_\_ African (4)\_\_\_, or for that matter that Cecil had been coaxed away from the game reserve he lived on.

Dr Palmer said he believed the hunt was legal and had "no idea" that the animal he shot dead was a "known, local favourite". He insisted his guides had "all proper (5)\_\_\_" for the (6)\_\_\_. Two Zimbabwean men who were with Palmer at the time of the (7)\_\_\_ have since been charged with (8)\_\_\_ following the killing of Cecil the lion. They are accused of luring the famous animal from a protected area so Walter Palmer could kill Cecil. The US dentist reportedly paid US\$50,000 to kill the lion. Palmer believes the trip was legal.

***lion / hunt / kill / defenceless / dentist / permits / poaching / forgiveness***

Cecil was wounded with a (1)\_\_\_, tracked for 40 hours and then shot dead with a (2)\_\_\_. The 13 year old lion was then decapitated and skinned. He had a GPS collar on, so that researchers at Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit could track his movements.

There has been a huge public (3)\_\_\_. Social media roared into (4)\_\_\_ in an attempt to shame Dr Palmer. Within 24 hours of the news breaking more than 400,000 people had signed an online "Justice for Cecil" (5)\_\_\_. #CecilTheLion got more than 250,000 hits in the first 24 hours on Twitter as the news spread. Dr Palmer also received death threats. The internet (6)\_\_\_ forced the lion killer to (7)\_\_\_ and close his dental clinic. A growing collection of stuffed lions appeared outside his dental practice in Minnesota. The (8)\_\_\_ just became the hunted...

***rage / hunter / backlash / crossbow / rifle / petition / hide / overdrive***

### **GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

#### **Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher**

Recently, (1)\_\_\_ heard the sad news that Cecil the lion had been killed by an American poacher in Zimbabwe. Dr Walter Palmer, a dentist and a father of two from Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, is now begging forgiveness. (2)\_\_\_ said he didn't know he was breaking Zimbabwe law (3)\_\_\_ killing the defenceless African lion, or for that matter that Cecil had been coaxed away from the game reserve he lived on.

Dr Palmer said he believed the hunt was legal and had "no idea" that the animal he shot dead was a "known, local favourite". He insisted (4)\_\_\_ guides had "all proper permits" (5)\_\_\_ the hunt. Two Zimbabwean men (6)\_\_\_ were with Palmer at the time (7)\_\_\_ the kill have since been charged with poaching following the killing of Cecil the lion. They are accused of luring the famous animal from a protected area (8)\_\_\_ Walter Palmer could kill Cecil. The US dentist reportedly paid US\$50,000 to kill the lion. Palmer believes the trip was legal.

***we / of / by / he / so / for / who / his /***

Cecil was wounded (1)\_\_\_ a crossbow, tracked for 40 hours and (2)\_\_\_ shot dead with a rifle. The 13 year old lion was then decapitated and skinned. He had a GPS collar on, so (3)\_\_\_ researchers at Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit could track his movements.

There has been a huge public backlash. Social media roared (4)\_\_\_ overdrive in an attempt to shame Dr Palmer. Within 24 hours of the news breaking more (5)\_\_\_ 400,000 people had signed an online "Justice for Cecil" petition. #CecilTheLion got (6)\_\_\_ than 250,000 hits in the first 24 hours on Twitter as the news spread. Dr Palmer (7)\_\_\_ received death threats. The internet rage forced the lion killer to hide and close his dental clinic. A growing collection of stuffed lions appeared outside his dental practice in Minnesota. The hunter (8)\_\_\_ became the hunted...

***just / more / than / into / then / that / with / also***

## Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher – 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

#### Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher

Recently, we heard the sad news that Cecil the lion had been killed by \_\_\_\_\_ in Zimbabwe. Dr Walter Palmer, a dentist and a father of two from Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, is now begging forgiveness. He said he didn't know he was breaking \_\_\_\_\_ killing the defenceless African lion, or for that matter that Cecil had been \_\_\_\_\_ game reserve he lived on. Dr Palmer said he believed the hunt was legal and had "no idea" that the animal he shot dead was a "known, local favourite". He insisted his guides had "\_\_\_\_\_ " for the hunt. \_\_\_\_\_ who were with Palmer at the time of the kill have since been charged with poaching following the killing of Cecil the lion. They are accused of luring the famous animal from a protected area so Walter Palmer could kill Cecil. The US dentist reportedly paid US\$50,000 to kill the lion. Palmer believes the trip was legal.

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collar on, so that researchers at Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit could track his movements.

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### WRITING/SPELLING

#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about the **game reserves**. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Zimbabwe \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Hunting \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Cecil the lion \_\_\_\_\_

**3) In class** - Write 50 words about: **Cecil the lion killed by American poacher**. Your work can be read out in class.

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Cecil the lion killed by American poacher**. Your email can be read out in class.

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) poacher
- 2) Zimbabwe
- 3) lion
- 4) permits
- 5) defenceless
- 6) matter
- 7) legal
- 8) favourite
- 9) Zimbabwean
- 10) Cecil

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) crossbow
- 12) skinned
- 13) decapitated
- 14) collar
- 15) backlash
- 16) overdrive
- 17) petition
- 18) rage
- 19) hunter
- 20) roared

Cecil the Lion Killed by American Poacher – *5<sup>th</sup> August 2015*