

UNIT 4 ARE YOU AN ANIMAL PERSON?

LESSON 1 VOCABULARY

A Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- Some people want to have **exotic** / **simple** / **cute** pets because they want a type of animal that other people don't have.
- That car is really **unique** / **adorable** / **gross**. I have never seen another one with three doors.
- I was shocked to see how **clean** / **gross** / **precious** the sore on the animal's side looked. I wanted to help it, so I took it to the vet.
- I saw a photo of a **magnificent** / **bizarre** / **adorable** fish, called a blobfish, that seemed to have a human face with a strange nose.
- There are so many **normal** / **tasty** / **peculiar** animals in the ocean. I want to learn about all the weird fish in the sea.
- Eagles are such large, **old** / **magnificent** / **rare** birds. They are really impressive when they fly.
- It's **good** / **weird** / **astonishing** to see how many words some animals can understand.
- If I had a pet, I would want it to be **bizzare** / **cute** / **gross**. I love cuddly, sweet animals.
- Rabbits are **gross** / **adorable** / **unique** pets. They are soft, quiet, and friendly.
- That house is really **bizarre** / **striking** / **peculiar**. Its gardens and design are so beautiful.

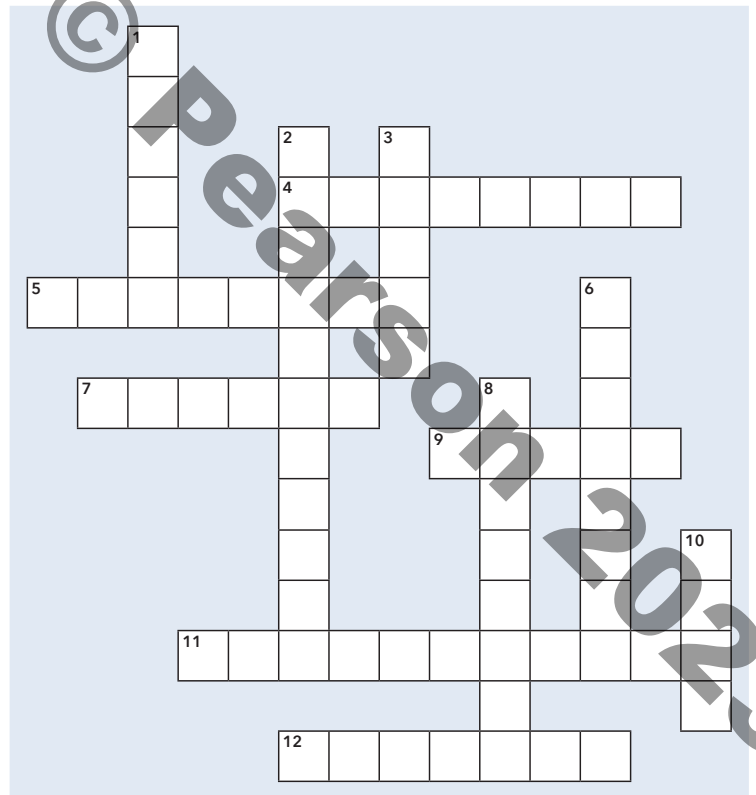
B Complete the crossword puzzle.

Across

- a synonym for *attractive in an unusual way*
- a synonym for *valuable*
- a synonym for *out of the ordinary*
- a synonym for *strange and unusual*
- a synonym for *beautiful and impressive*
- a synonym for *very unfamiliar and different*

Down

- a synonym for *one of a kind*
- a synonym for *difficult to believe*
- a synonym for *disgusting and terrible*
- a synonym for *delightful and loveable*
- a synonym for *odd and maybe unpleasant*
- a synonym for *pleasant and attractive*



LESSON 1 GRAMMAR

A Circle the correct article. If no article is necessary, circle Ø.

1. Do you like to watch **an** / Ø animal videos?
2. A friend sent me a link to **a** / **the** funny video this morning.
3. Have you looked at **a** / **the** video I told you about?
4. A frog is **an** / **the** amphibian, so it can live both on land and in the water.
5. **A** / **The** Bengal tiger is the national animal of India.
6. When I see a bird I don't recognize, I go online for Ø / **the** information.
7. Evidently, an eagle has **an** / **the** ability to spot a rabbit over three kilometers away—that's almost two miles.
8. An eagle may weigh only ten pounds (less than five kilograms), but it has Ø / **the** eyes as big as a human being's.

B Complete the sentences with the singular or plural form of the nouns in parentheses. Add articles as needed.

1. You should watch this video of an octopus as it opens a jar.
(octopus)
2. I studied _____ in school.
(frog)
3. Scientists have reported _____ in the number of frogs worldwide.
(drop)
4. There are frogs in Central and South America that produce poison in their skin to discourage _____.
(predator)
5. Frogs, like all amphibians, depend on _____ for body heat.
(environment)
6. After the female glass frog lays her eggs, it's the job of _____ to guard them until they hatch.
(male)
7. The water-holding frog of Australia is _____ of the kind of frog that can survive buried underground for months, or even years, waiting for rain.
(example)
8. _____ is known for its bright color combinations: blue, pink, orange, and green.
(leaf frog)
9. Frogs go through stages as they develop from an egg to a tadpole to _____.
(adult)

LESSON 2 VOCABULARY

A Complete the conversations with words from the box.

fearful pessimistic shelter excitable lifespan resemble

1. A: I've heard that pets are living longer these days.
B: That's right. I read cats have a longer _____ than they did 20 years ago.
2. A: I wonder how animals like fish can tell each other apart.
B: Good question. To me, they all seem to _____ each other.
3. A: Every time my daughter sees a dog, she runs away.
B: Really? Why do you think she's _____ of dogs?
4. A: I want to get a couple of cats, but they're too expensive.
B: Did you check the animal _____? They have adult cats at a low cost.
5. A: I took my cat to the vet because she's really sick. I'm feeling a bit _____, though, and worry she might not get better.
B: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. But your cat is still young and your vet's very good, so she's likely to recover.
6. A: I want to get a parrot for a pet.
B: Oh, no...they're so _____, always screeching and screaming. Could we get a calmer animal?

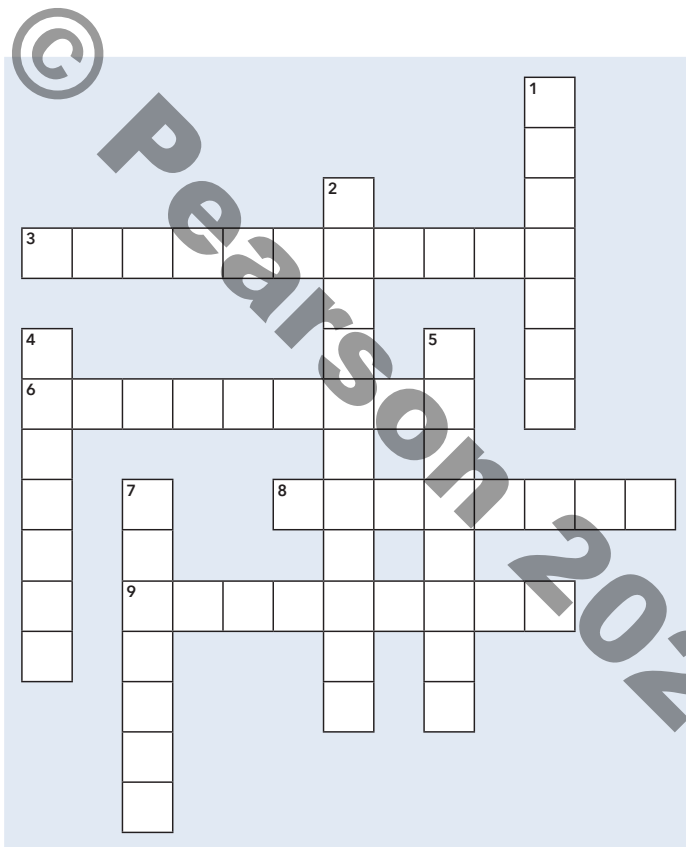
B Complete the crossword puzzle.

Across

3. Dave is really ___ and enjoys being around people.
6. Large animals, like bears, need ___ areas to live in.
8. A ___ is how long an animal or person lives.
9. Nancy's dog is ___ and barks a lot.

Down

1. The scientists will ___ an experiment on octopus intelligence.
2. Sam is really ___ and usually thinks the worst is going to happen.
4. Bob's cat is very ___ and hides when it hears a strange noise.
5. Helen and Sue ___ each other. They are very similar-looking sisters.
7. An animal ___ takes care of animals that need a home.



LESSON 2 GRAMMAR

A Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses. Use the simple present.

- Both of my next-door neighbors have noisy dogs. (have)
- Neither of my next-door neighbors owns a cat. (own)
- Overall, the number of cats in my neighborhood seems to increase each year. (seem)
- Most of the cat-owning households in the U.S. have two of them. (have)
- Each of my cats spends most of her time outdoors. (spend)
- I don't know if either of my cats is outside at the moment. (be)
- Unfortunately, a number of the neighborhood cats like to catch birds. (like)
- None of the bird-lovers in the neighborhood are happy about the number of cats. (be)
- My brother and his cats live in the city, so every one of the cats stays indoors all the time. (stay)

B Circle all the correct answers.

- I don't have a dog, but one of the people I know have dogs.
one of half of a lot of the number of
- Both of my neighbors have noisy dogs.
Both of Each of One of A number of
- My dog sleeps most of the time.
a number of most of about 50 percent of every one of
- I thought both of the dogs on the beach was unusual.
most of the the number of both of the a lot of the
- One of the dogs was wearing a collar with a license tag.
Most of Each of Every one of One of
- At least half of my veterinarian's patients are dogs.
Every one of More than 80 percent of At least half of Most of
- A lot of my friends' dogs are rescue dogs—that is, they were adopted from shelters.
A lot of One of About half of The number of
- A number of the towns in this area have dog parks, where dogs are free to run and play.
Most of Each of A lot of A number of

LESSON 3 VOCABULARY

A Circle the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

1. I would like to have a pet, but I would **feel guilty / grieve / hold a grudge** because most of the time, I'm not home. I don't think it's right to leave an animal alone for too long.
2. Some people **howl / grieve / scold** for years after their pet has died.
3. Some birds built a nest over my door. They would then **howl / be self-aware / dive-bomb** me every time I tried to go into my house.
4. When I sing, my dog **mourns / howls / scolds**. I wonder if he hates my singing or if he's just trying to sing, too.
5. I can hear how my neighbor **mourns / dive-bombs / scolds** her dogs if they are too excitable. Then she gives them snacks to be quiet.
6. Researchers often conduct experiments to see if animals are **self-aware / holding a grudge / mourning**, but their results are a mix of "yes" and "no" answers.
7. People used to wear black clothes as a way to **mourn / scold / howl** after someone had died.
8. Some people never want to forgive others for mistakes they have made. Instead, they **hold a grudge / are self-aware / howl** and cause problems for those people and for themselves.

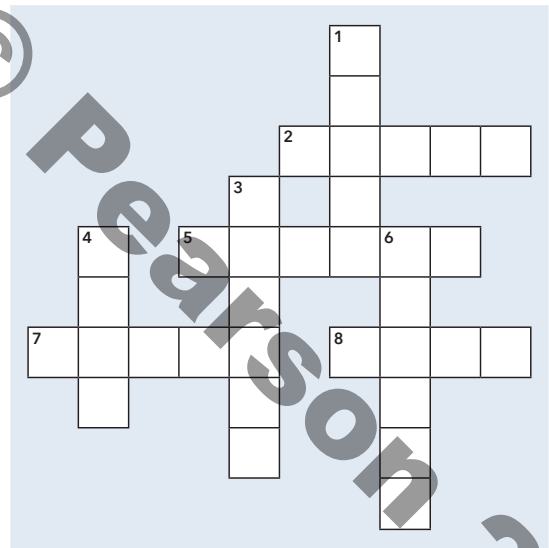
B Complete the crossword puzzle.

Across

2. to feel and show deep sadness, maybe by wearing black
5. Hold a ___ means to stay angry at and not forgive someone for a long time.
7. to be self-___ is to have knowledge and understanding of yourself
8. ___-bomb is to fly swiftly and quickly downward and then upward again

Down

1. to yell at someone
3. when you feel sad, usually because someone died
4. a long loud noise, generally made by a wolf or a dog
6. to feel ___ means to feel bad because you did something you knew was wrong to do



LESSON 3 GRAMMAR

A Circle the correct answer.

1. A: Did you know there are **giant pandas / the giant pandas** at the national zoo in Washington, D.C.? 1.
B: No, I've never been there.
- A: Well, you can watch **pandas / the pandas** online if you want, because **a / the** zoo has Panda Cams. 2. 3.
B: Cool.
- A: The zoo has **polar bears / the polar bears**, too. 4.
B: Washington D.C. doesn't seem like **a / the** good place for polar bears. They need a cold climate. 5.
A: I know. They belong in the Artic.
2. A: Can you take **a / the** dog out for a run? She needs some exercise. 6.
B: I was just about to go to **a / the** supermarket. How about I take her out when I get back? 7.
A: That's OK then. I'll take her out myself. Where's her leash?
B: On **a / the** porch. Have **a / the** good run! 8. 9.

B Complete the conversations with the singular or plural form of the nouns in parentheses. Add articles as needed.

1. A: I don't know anything about _____ as pets. Do they get attached to their owners? 1. (bird)
B: Some birds definitely do, like _____, for example. 2. (parrot)
A: Parrots are cool.
B: But sometimes a parrot gets so attached to its owner that it becomes _____. 3. (problem)
A: How?
B: Well, the bond between them is so strong that _____ becomes possessive. It will actually bite other people in _____. 4. (parrot) 5. (home)
2. A: Hi, Sarah! I didn't know you had _____. 6. (dog)
B: He's not mine, actually. I'm taking care of him for _____ while she's away. 7. (friend)
A: For how long?
B: Just for _____. He goes home tomorrow night. Which is good—he misses her! 8. (weekend)

LESSON 4 READING

A Read the blog post.

Animals and Empathy

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Are animals capable of empathy? This question doesn't have a simple answer because the word *empathy* can be difficult to define. Cognitive empathy—the ability to understand others' feelings, think them through, and weigh options—has never been found in animals. For an animal to demonstrate empathy, some experts say it must consciously act to help another animal without any motivation of selfish gain, while others believe that any feeling of concern qualifies as empathy no matter the context. I'm certainly no scientist, but I believe animals can certainly show signs of empathy. If you don't believe me, here is a brief overview of several scientific studies conducted on rats which focused on empathy in animals.

- Russell Church used operant conditioning (a method of affecting behavior by using rewards or punishments) on rats to train them to obtain food by pressing a lever. However, when the lever gave a neighboring rat an electric shock, the first rat would choose to not eat food in favor of helping its neighbor. I'd say this example provides evidence of empathy.
- In 2011, neuroscientist Peggy Mason conducted an experiment that shows that supports that empathy exists in rats. Given a choice between freeing a caged rat or eating chocolate, a rat would first free the rat and then share the chocolate.

Although you might agree that all these experiments provide evidence for empathy, some scientists do not agree. Psychologist Alan Silberberg believes the rats in Mason's study opened those cages out of a desire to play—a selfish motivation. To support his view, Silberberg reproduced Mason's experiment without allowing the rats to play and found that the rats' interest in freeing the caged rat decreased.

Because empathy is somewhat open to interpretation and selfish motivations can be attributed to nearly any action, it is difficult to satisfy everyone that animals are capable of empathy. Nevertheless, I believe that it is unlikely that empathy appeared exclusively in humans. Animals may have different motivations behind empathetic acts, but that doesn't mean that humans are the only species capable of feeling empathy.

B Reread the blog post. Circle the correct answers.

1. Animals can't show cognitive empathy because **the steps have only ever been found in humans / animals are motivated by selfish gain.**
2. Church's experiment seems to show that **rats can be trained to have empathy / empathy is stronger than the desire for food in rats.**
3. The findings of Silberberg's study seem to show that **rats may seem selfish when they're actually showing empathy / rats are selfishly motivated.**
4. The author is likely to say that **humans are not the only species capable of feeling empathy / it is not possible to have an opinion because empathy is open to interpretation.**

C Read the Reading Skill. Then scan the blog post for the terms. Complete the definitions.

| Term | Definition |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. cognitive empathy | the ability to understand others' _____, think them through, and weigh _____ |
| 2. operant conditioning | a method of affecting _____ via rewards or _____ |

READING SKILL Recognize Definitions

After a new or difficult noun, look for a definition that clarifies the meaning. It might be set off by a comma or dash or be in parentheses.

LESSON 5 WRITING

A Read the persuasive essay. Underline the six sentences that do *not* support the writer's position.

Do you wear leather shoes? Do you have a woolen sweater? Do you eat a hamburger every now and then? We don't often think of the effects of everyday actions such as these, but these behaviors are cruel to animals. **It's imperative that** we stop using animals for food and clothing.

Raising animals for food in factory-farming environments causes them **immense** suffering. For example, a lot of animals, such as pigs and cattle, are raised in **outrageous** conditions. On many factory farms, they are confined in **horribly** cramped spaces with little room to move. This causes the animals to become fearful, and, as a result, they bite each other. However, factory farms cannot make a profit unless they have large stocks of animals.

Furthermore, many factory-farmed animals are genetically modified to make them bigger and produce more meat. In many cases, genetic modification has created "**Frankenanimals**"—animals with **unusual and unhealthy** physical conditions such as enormous chickens with tiny legs that they cannot stand on. There's no proof, though, that genetically modified animals are harmful to human health.

Using animals for products can also cause them to suffer. For example, hens raised for eggs in factory farms are put in crowded spaces. So they don't peck each other, their beaks are sometimes cut off. Factory-farmed dairy cows are given the hormone rBGH so they will produce more milk. But the hormone often leads to painful infections and other **horrible** conditions. There is no significant difference, by the way, between milk from cows given rBST and milk from non-rBST cows. Even shearing sheep for their wool can be **harmful**. This is because some farmers breed sheep to produce more and better wool. This breeding results in excess hair that the sheep were not originally designed to have. Excess hair, in turn, leads to overheating and **terrible** infections caused by parasites that can hide in the extra wooly coat. But this doesn't happen in every case.

Feeling guilty? You should! We raise animals specifically so we can use them for food and other products. In fact, they wouldn't even exist unless we raised them in the first place. So cut down on your consumption of factory-farmed meat and other animal products. Or better yet, avoid meat altogether! **There's no question** that we must stop abusing animals now!

B Read the essay again. Write the boldface phrases in the correct category.

| Colloquial / Emotional | Formal / Academic |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. | 11. |
| 6. | 12. |

UNIT 4 SELF-QUIZ

1 VOCABULARY

Complete the sentences. Circle the correct answer.

- The international food festival introduces ____ dishes from different countries that many people in the small town have never tried before.
a. cute b. gross c. exotic d. adorable
- Her ____ outfit reminded me of a strange costume from a circus. It was very unusual, I didn't really like it!
a. bizarre b. striking c. magnificent d. astonishing
- Cats raised as pets have a much longer ____ than those raised in the wild.
a. shelter b. lifespan c. excitable d. pessimistic
- Jason hopes his future children ____ his wife. She is much better looking than Jason!
a. fearful b. conduct c. resemble d. extensive
- Many people came to ____ the death of the legendary singer.
a. howl b. scold c. mourn d. hold a grudge
- I ____ for being dishonest, but I can't tell my parents the truth yet.
a. grieve b. feel guilty c. dive-bomb d. am self-aware

2 GRAMMAR

A Complete the sentences with *a*, *an*, *the*, or \emptyset (no article).

- _____ mammals are different from birds in that they usually do not lay eggs. However, a platypus is _____ mammal that lays eggs.
- _____

B Rewrite the sentences using the quantifier in parentheses. When necessary, change the verb to agree with the subject

- The students are concerned about the new policy.
→ (most of) _____.
- The professors have commented on this issue.
→ (none of) _____.

C Complete the sentences with *a*, *an*, *the*, or \emptyset (no article).

- I can't wait to meet _____ boy you told me about last night.
- I don't have _____ car yet, but I want to buy one someday.