

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Calling animals 'pets' is unfair

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**29th April, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

Animal rights campaigners want the English language to be fairer to animals. Professor Andrew Linzey wrote in the Journal of Animal Ethics that we should change the names we give to animals. He said the word "pet" insults dogs and cats. He said instead, they should be called "companion animals". He also dislikes the word "owners" because it describes animals as being property and not living creatures. Linzey believes people will treat animals better if we use more respectful vocabulary.

Professor Linzey outlines many more words he says disrespects animals and gives alternatives. He suggests we replace the term "wild animal" with "free-living" or "free-roaming". He also asks us to stop describing rats and mice as "vermin" or "pests". Linzey says, "our existing language about animals is the language of past thought...and the past is littered" with insulting names. He wants an end to phrases he thinks are unfair, such as "sly as a fox", "eat like a pig" or "drunk as a skunk".

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. animal rights           | a. creatures      |
| 2. the word "pet" insults  | b. being property |
| 3. it describes animals as | c. animals better |
| 4. living                  | d. vocabulary     |
| 5. people will treat       | e. campaigners    |
| 6. use more respectful     | f. dogs and cats  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. words he says disrespects      | a. as "vermin"          |
| 2. replace the term "wild animal" | b. pig                  |
| 3. stop describing rats and mice  | c. animals              |
| 4. the language of past           | d. with insulting names |
| 5. littered                       | e. thought              |
| 6. eat like a                     | f. with "free-living"   |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

\_\_\_\_\_ campaigners want the English language  
\_\_\_\_\_ animals. Professor Andrew Linzey wrote in  
the Journal of Animal Ethics that we should change  
\_\_\_\_\_ to animals. He said the word "pet" insults  
dogs and cats. \_\_\_\_\_, they should be called  
"companion animals". He also dislikes the word "owners" because  
it describes animals \_\_\_\_\_ and not living  
creatures. Linzey believes \_\_\_\_\_ animals better if  
we use more respectful vocabulary.

Professor Linzey \_\_\_\_\_ more words he says  
disrespects animals and \_\_\_\_\_. He suggests we  
replace the term "wild animal" with "free-living" or "free-  
roaming". He \_\_\_\_\_ stop describing rats and  
mice as "vermin" or "pests". Linzey says, "our  
\_\_\_\_\_ about animals is the language of past  
thought...and the past is littered" with \_\_\_\_\_. He  
wants an end to phrases he thinks are unfair, such as "sly as a  
fox", " \_\_\_\_\_ " or "drunk as a skunk".

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

Animal (1) \_\_\_\_\_ campaigners want the English language to be fairer to animals. Professor Andrew Linzey wrote in the Journal of Animal Ethics that we should change the names we (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to animals. He said the word "pet" (3) \_\_\_\_\_ dogs and cats. He said (4) \_\_\_\_\_, they should be called "companion animals". He also dislikes the word "owners" because it describes animals as (5) \_\_\_\_\_ property and not living creatures. Linzey believes people will (6) \_\_\_\_\_ animals better if we use more respectful vocabulary.

Professor Linzey (7) \_\_\_\_\_ many more words he says disrespects animals and gives alternatives. He suggests we replace the term "(8) \_\_\_\_\_ animal" with "free-living" or "free-roaming". He also asks us to stop describing rats and mice (9) \_\_\_\_\_ "vermin" or "(10) \_\_\_\_\_". Linzey says, "our existing language about animals is the language of past thought...and the past is (11) \_\_\_\_\_" with insulting names. He wants an end to phrases he thinks are unfair, such as "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ as a fox", "eat like a pig" or "drunk as a skunk".

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |              |               |
|-----|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) wrongs     | (b) lefts    | (c) rights    |
| 2.  | (a) give       | (b) name     | (c) talk      |
| 3.  | (a) insults    | (b) insult   | (c) insulting |
| 4.  | (a) however    | (b) instead  | (c) so        |
| 5.  | (a) was        | (b) be       | (c) being     |
| 6.  | (a) threat     | (b) treat    | (c) treaty    |
| 7.  | (a) lines      | (b) outlines | (c) lined     |
| 8.  | (a) wilderness | (b) wildly   | (c) wild      |
| 9.  | (a) as         | (b) was      | (c) has       |
| 10. | (a) bests      | (b) pests    | (c) vests     |
| 11. | (a) littered   | (b) litters  | (c) litter    |
| 12. | (a) happy      | (b) hot      | (c) sly       |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. animal htgirs
2. rfreia to animals
3. the word "pet" slstnui dogs and cats
4. "ioonpcamn animals"
5. people will eartt animals better
6. more flspetceru vocabulary

## Paragraph 2

7. Linzey seiotunl many more words
8. aeclepr the term "wild animal"
9. "vermin" or "ssept"
10. our singietx language
11. rhaspse he thinks are unfair
12. rukdn as a skunk

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) unfair, such as "sly as a fox", "eat like a pig" or "drunk as a skunk".
- ( **1** ) Animal rights campaigners want the English language to be fairer to animals. Professor
- ( ) Andrew Linzey wrote in the Journal of Animal Ethics that we should change the names we
- ( ) called "companion animals". He also dislikes the word "owners" because it describes
- ( ) animals as being property and not living creatures. Linzey believes people will
- ( ) asks us to stop describing rats and mice as "vermin" or "pests". Linzey says, "our existing
- ( ) is littered" with insulting names. He wants an end to phrases he thinks are
- ( ) treat animals better if we use more respectful vocabulary.
- ( ) Professor Linzey outlines many more words he says disrespects animals and gives
- ( ) alternatives. He suggests we replace the term "wild animal" with "free-living" or "free-roaming". He also
- ( ) language about animals is the language of past thought...and the past
- ( ) give to animals. He said the word "pet" insults dogs and cats. He said instead, they should be

# WORD JUMBLE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal\\_names.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110429-animal_names.html)

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. fairer English language Campaigners to want be the.

---

2. change we animals should names to We the give.

---

3. He word the "pet" dogs said insults.

---

4. property It animals being describes as.

---

5. animals treat will people believes Linzey better.

---

6. animals More he disrespects words says.

---

7. and . mice Stop as describing rats "vermin"

---

8. about language existing Our animals.

---

9. names insulting with littered is past The.

---

10. are to unfair phrases he An thinks end.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. ANIMAL NAMES:** Search the Internet and find more information about animal names. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about animal names. Include imaginary interviews with some animals. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to a language. Ask him/her three questions about animal names. Give him/her three of your opinions on this article. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.